

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LV.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 15TH MARCH, 1902.

No. 11

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BIRTHS.

On the 27th February, at Hankow, the wife of PAUL I. DE HEES, of a son.
On the 2nd March, at Chemulpo, Corea, the wife of CARL WOLTER, of a daughter.
On the 11th March, at the Government Civil Hospital, the wife of JAMES WALKER, of a son.

DEATHS.

On the 1st March, at the Shanghai General Hospital, Sister ANNE ALLEGRE (Sister Superior, Shanghai General Hospital).
On the 1st March, at the General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, W. H. LANE, aged 31 years.
On the 2nd March, at Mission House, Stamford Road, Singapore, the Rev. W. H. GOMES, B.D., aged 74 years.
On the 5th March, at Pootung, Shanghai, DOROTHY ANNIE, youngest daughter of J. B. and A. E. JACK, aged 6 months.
On the 7th March, at Canton, DAVID DUNCAN, of the Imperial Maritime Customs, native of Aberdeen, Scotland, aged 36 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 7th February arrived, per M. M. steamer *Ernest Simons*, on the 10th March (31 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

President Roosevelt has signed the 'Philippines Tariff Bill.'

The VI divostock merchants are petitioning M. de Witte, Russian Minister of Finance, to extend the Customs frontier into North-east Manchuria.

The *Japan Mail* advises the Japanese Government not to endeavour to collect the house-tax from foreigners by force, but to have the question arbitrated.

The report of the Canadian Commission on Japanese immigration advises legislation on the lines of the Natal Act unless Japan enforces its inhibition act preventing emigration.

A Reuter's telegram, dated 11th March, says:—Russia, in yielding to China, undertakes to withdraw from Manchuria within eighteen months, if the latter's signature is given to the proposed convention.

In answer to enquiries regarding Shantung, Germany has assured the United States that she has no intention of excluding the citizens of other nations from any advantages to be enjoyed there by Germans.

M. Delcassé, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, speaking in the Chamber, said that the Anglo-Japanese treaty could not modify French policy which is likewise directed towards the maintenance of the integrity of China.

Chinese merchants from Port Arthur are arriving in Shanghai, according to our correspondent there, "in accordance with orders to remove their families, as Port Arthur is preparing for a war between Russia and Japan."

Four or five wealthy Chinese towkays, are proceeding to England for the Coronation from the Malay Native States. It is stated that a number of Straits-born Chinese from Singapore also intend going to England to see the Coronation.

The Korean Government have decorated the Foreign Ministers who aided the ratification of Treaties with Corea. Mr. Waerber, Russian Minister, and Count Inouye, Japanese Minister, were decorated with the highest order, and the Ministers for France, Germany, and Belgium were decorated with the second-class order.

Our Canton correspondent writes under date 7th March that it appears from telegrams received in Canton from the missionaries in Kwangsi that they are in no danger. The reported rebellion, they state, is not very serious; General So Yun-chou has already returned to Lungchow, and a speedy restoration of peace is expected.

The *Universal Gazette* learns that of the twenty-four articles of the Commercial Treaty proposed by Sir J. Mackay to the Chinese Commercial Commissioners, four have been contested, namely, the import of foreign salt, the export of Chinese rice, the general throwing open of the whole country to international trade, and the opening of Peking as a Treaty port.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 3rd inst. says that in consequence of the very much regretted illness of Mr. Pelham L. Warren, Consul-General, Mr. G. D. Fitzipios has been appointed Acting Consul-General. Mr. H. E. Fox is transferred to the Consulate at Chemulpo, and is to be succeeded in the Shipping Office at Shanghai by Mr. H. F. King.

The *Shanghai Times* says:—"The German residents at Tientsin have raised 20,000 marks to erect a monument in memory of the German soldiers who died in China during 1900 and 1901. The monument will be erected at Hongkong." After this we shall expect to hear that a monument to the British soldiers will be erected at Kiaochau, and one to the Japanese at Port Arthur.

The hearing of claims at Shanghai for compensation by British subjects against the Chinese Government closed with the application of Mr. Fitzgerald Wintour, when £500 were awarded as compensation for wounds sustained at Peking during the siege. The Commissioner, Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, is now considering the question of interest on the amounts of claims that have been passed.

The *Sinwénpao* learns that Viceroy Yuan Shikai intends, in view of the return to China of Tientsin, to create a corps of military police for that city under the direction of Mr. W. Quincey, formerly of the Hongkong Police. Mr. Quincey is a native of Quinsan, and was a protégé of the late General Gordon, who took him when quite a lad to England, where he was sent to school for a few years.

It is announced that a bishopric will be established this year for Manchuria, having its seat at Peking, and that in one of the Manchurian towns an Orthodox monastery will be established as a settlement for a mission. A sum of 50,000 roubles has already been assigned by the Ecclesiastical Department for the erection of the monastery. The Archimandrite, Mgr. Innocentius, head of the Peking Ecclesiastical Mission, is designated as the probable future bishop.

The Rajah of Patani, one of the Malay States under Siamese suzerainty, lying north of Perak, has been kidnapped by the Siamese. He was lured to a house and asked to sign a treaty whereby he abjured his right of governing his own State. When he refused, he was surrounded by Siamese soldiers and carried on a gunboat up the coast. The Patani Malays are frantic, and serious trouble is feared. The Governor of the Straits Settlements has been asked to interfere.

According to the *Universal Gazette's* Peking correspondent, the Chinese Minister to Japan recently wired to the Chinese Government to the effect that China should at once send a telegram to Japan congratulating her upon the conclusion of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. But when Viceroy Yuan Shikai heard of the Minister's advice, he telegraphed to Peking from Paoingfu, requesting the Government not to carry it into effect, and saying that, instead of congratulating others, China ought to feel ashamed of having had to depend upon others for support.

A native despatch to Shanghai from Taiyuan, capital of Shansi, states that as Taiyuan was one of the cities where Boxerism ran riot in 1900, that city, according to the Peace Protocol, lost its privilege of holding literary examinations for the licentiate and M.A. (*Hsiuts'ai* and *Chüjen*) degrees for the period of five years. An alternative has, however, been found by the authorities to get around the prohibition in the selection of the district city of Hankou, some twenty-five miles from Taiyuan, to hold these examinations, thus making the prohibitory clause a mere farce.

THE NEW TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS.

(Daily Press, 12th March.)

Probably one of the most fantastic propositions that ever entered diplomatic head is that fathered by Sir JAMES MACKAY, the Mercantile Adviser sent out to China to assist in the negotiation of the new Tariff. To many of our readers the lively description by the late WINGROVE COOKE of the great obstacle in the path of the then negotiations in China, "the twenty-years-in-the-country-and-speak-the-language-man," will doubtless be still familiar; but the simple-minded bugbear of WINGROVE COOKE's day fades into absolute insignificance before his revival in the modern merchant-negotiator. There is, however, pretty clear evidence that to the same influences as brought about the failures of Lord ELGIN and the rout of Sir THOMAS WADE in his ill-starred efforts to negotiate his Convention at Chefoo, is to be attributed this interlude of our latest negotiator. The "forty-years-in-the-country-and-speak-the-language-man" is still rampant, and the latest of his disciples is this time not to be found in the ranks of dilettante diplomatists, nor in the garb of a Special Envoy, but in the plain fustian dress and armed with the quarter-staff of a plain British trader. It would be an insult to the intelligence of the British trader in general to attribute to any lessons he learnt during his long climb up the ladder of mercantile success the idea Sir JAMES MACKAY has sprung on the English resident in China; and it is certainly more charitable to conclude that the proposition whose paternity he appears to have accepted is really the production of the purlieus of the Inspectorate-General in Peking, than that it is the offspring of any British school of financial or political training. Much as the British merchant in China has deprecated the incidence of the *lekin* taxes in China, not one has had the hardihood to aver that they amounted to the equivalent of a tax of fifteen per cent. Sir JAMES MACKAY could never, with his extremely limited knowledge of China, have discovered this remarkable fact for himself; and as he could have discovered it from no outside source his proposition must have come from the only spring capable of palming off on his innocence such a self-evident swindle. He has in fact only proved another victim of the well-worn "confidence" trick of which we had hoped, but how vainly, we had seen the last in China. Leaving, however, the financial aspect of the affair momentarily aside, is there any reason to explain in any less condemnatory term its political aspect? We fear we must look in the same direction for a reply. It was one of the most characteristic schemes of the late LI HUNG-CHANG to make the attempt to throw the burden of the recent misdeeds of China on to the shoulders of the principal sufferers; and a number of his followers, really regretting the failure of the Palace plot to get rid of the foreigner and his trade at one blow, have been unceasing in urging, in season and out of season, the necessity of making the foreigner tax himself to pay his own indemnity. Curiously enough, the simple fact does not seem to have struck diplomatists in Peking that it would be better to forego all indemnity than to pay one to be eventually taken out of our own pockets—with interest meanwhile to boot. This is altogether apart from the curious fact, which on calm reflection must appear self-evidently absurd to any reasoning man, that from a merely political standpoint we should not only condone the crime, but

should place in the hands of its perpetrators the means of repeating it more effectually than before. This is really the plain meaning of all these proposals for an increase of the burdens on foreign trade, and everything goes to show that this is really the view taken at Peking of our unexpected complaisance in this little matter. An equally important, if not more important consideration in this last attempted swindle—for to use plain words it is as much a swindle as the false pretences of the confidence man—is, does the new proposal hold out any prospect of getting rid of the abuse against which it professes to be directed? We have made at least three solemn conventions, each accompanied with the unequivocal promise that we were to hear the last of *lekin*. Let the "forty-years-in-the-country-men" explain how it has happened that not one of these solemn engagements has been kept; and also let them show what reason there is why this new proposal should meet with greater success than its predecessors. As a fact, as everyone outside officialdom—and there are many possessed of as great knowledge as the paid officials on whom our would-be-negotiators profess to depend—is quite aware, the Central Government, so long as it is carried on present lines, cannot, and dare not, intermeddle with the rights of its provincials to levy taxes how and in what manner they select. We have always heard the complaint from Peking, and this is not denied by officialdom, but rather attempted to be put forward as a plea for grace, that the Viceroy will not obey the instructions given to them. There is a great deal of truth in this, but not the whole truth, the reason for the provincial refusal being carefully concealed by these biassed apologists. As a fact, while Peking looks carefully to the provinces to pay the interest on the Imperial indebtedness, it is also equally persistent in maintaining its constitutional right to all the revenue derived from foreign trade. This is the true reason why Peking is so desirous of raising under any plea the dues on foreign trade, and not any desire to honestly meet its engagements. This is the view which Peking carefully impresses on the provinces, and the lesson that they have learned to their cost is that, however plainly the dues from foreign trade are earmarked for their benefit, the demands of Peking will never be relaxed in consequence. This is the truth that the forty-years-man carefully shields from his mental vision; but is nevertheless the view that is most enchanting to his employers in Peking.

RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.

(Daily Press, 14th March.)

It is difficult to know what to make of REUTER's announcement that "Russia, in yielding to China, undertakes to withdraw from Manchuria within eighteen months, if the latter's signature is given to the proposed Convention." In the first place, it is impossible to say what is meant by Russia "yielding to China." If Russia were to yield to the wishes of the only real patriots in China she would have to withdraw the Convention altogether. But she is evidently not prepared to do this, inasmuch as she postulates that China's signature is given to the proposed Convention. In the second place, what is the "proposed Convention" referred to? We have had so many drafts of this Convention that it cannot be said with certainty which is the proposed Convention. Thirdly, there is the question whether Russia is not bound in any case to withdraw from Manchuria. The recent Anglo-Japanese agreement aims at guarding

the integrity of the whole of China, not excluding Manchuria, and, apart from this, there is no valid reason why Russia should claim that the northern province is to be excepted from the general terms of peace between China and the Powers. The right of Russia to maintain the security of the Manchurian Railway, which China is still unable to guarantee, is a separate question from the continued occupation of the whole of Manchuria. We can only regard the latest Russian move, as reported by REUTER, as another attempt to "bluff" China. As we have already stated frequently, the Manchurian question is not one which interests China and Russia alone. The United States, Japan, and Great Britain are all concerned in the future of Manchuria, and no effort to force China into signing away her own and other countries' rights can be looked on with indifference.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

(Daily Press, 11th March.)

Educational reports and statistics are always interesting, even to the casual reader. The comparison of old Central School statistics for 1881 with those of Queen's College for 1901 made by Dr. WRIGHT in his Annual Report on the latter establishment (extracts from which we made in yesterday's issue) must forcibly appeal to everyone. The position can be easily strengthened. If the two last items be put into sterling—a common enough practice nowadays—and assuming the value of a dollar now as half what it was in 1881, the expense of Queen's College with its daily average of 894 scholars throughout last year, works out at about three-fourths, the expense of the 386 students in daily average attendance at the old Central School twenty years earlier: while, on the same basis, the average expense per scholar during 1901 comes to less than one-third what it was in 1881. The difference of standard now aimed at, and in great measure attained, is also little short of astonishing; particularly when it is pointed out that the raw material available is as crude now as ever, and that the very greatest difficulty is experienced in retaining boys, even the sons of the comparatively wealthy section of the native community, at school, as soon as they have acquired a marketable smattering of English. Dr. WRIGHT points out, among other crying educational needs, that the Native Chinese School should be restored for the boys in the Lower and Preparatory Sections; i.e., in all classes below the third. The Report of the Education Commission appointed by Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY, and issued late in 1882, says:—"To secure more time for, and greater efficiency in, the study of English in the Central School, it is essential that great attention should be paid by the scholars to the study of Chinese during the earlier years of their attendance. For this purpose there should be an Upper and a Lower School. In the latter, Chinese should go hand in hand with English, and about the same amount of time should be devoted to each. For passing from the Lower to the Upper School, there should be a stringent examination, and no Chinese boy should be admitted to the Upper School until he is considered by the examiners to have obtained a competent knowledge of his own language. When this has been attained, the translation lessons in the Upper School would prevent any neglect of Chinese which might arise when the ordinary lessons in that language ceased to be taught."

This section of the Report was signed by the Honourable FREDERICK STEWART, Acting Colonial Secretary and Head Master of the Central School; the Honourable EDWARD LOUGHLIN O'MALLEY, Attorney-General; the Honourable PHINEAS RYRIE; and the Honourable F. BULKELEY JOHNSON. The Honourable NG CHOY—now His Excellency the Chinese Ambassador at Washington—dissented, suggesting that “the whole attention of the boys at the Central School should be confined to the study of English, and that every Chinese boy, before admission there—to, should be found to possess a competent knowledge of his own language.” Had this simple but drastic test been applied, then as now, we fear that the benches in the chief scholastic institution of the Colony would be empty. It is to be hoped that this question of the Native Chinese School will receive the serious consideration it deserves at the hands of the Educational Commissioners now in session. As we read of the removal of the older English masters by death, retirement on pension, transference, and loan, another significant question crops up. It is widely known that for some reason or other—retrenchment was possibly at the root of the matter—the Governing Body five years ago recommended the discontinuance of the system which required English masters to acquire a written and colloquial knowledge of Chinese. There cannot now be left more than two or three English masters, at most, on the staff of Queen's College who have an acquaintance with Chinese; and even they, in the lapse of a few years, from one cause or another, will be removed. There will then be the anomaly of an educational staff wholly unacquainted with the mother tongue of its scholars. This is not merely anomalous, it is suicidal. From the very earliest days of the Colony's history it has ever been the policy of the Home authorities to encourage Civil servants of all grades and in all departments to get some knowledge of Cantonese and, if possible, of the written character too. Government Notification No. 4, in the *Government Gazette* of July 7th, 1855, says:—“His Excellency the Governor has received a Despatch from the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, calling his attention to the great importance which Her Majesty's Government attaches to the acquirement of the Chinese language by all functionaries in the public service of this Colony, and His Excellency is instructed to state that in claims for promotion a knowledge of Chinese will be considered as a recommendation to the favourable consideration of the authorities.”

In the face of the above *verbatim* extract, the action of the Governing Body is unwisdom itself. No doubt this matter too will receive due attention from the present Educational Commission.

We have received the *P. & T. Times* of the 1st inst. A leading article pleads for a British Post Office for Tientsin. The Peiho is better than it has been for six or seven years.—The Tientsin A.D.C. have played *The Magistrate* with great success.—Preparations are under way in Tientsin for the celebration of King Edward's Coronation.—The erection of the monument to Baron von Ketteler in Hatamen-ti, Peking, is proceeding well. Enormous blocks of marble are being used, each of which requires 85 to 125 horses to drag it from the quarries in the Western Hills to the city.—The theft of telegraph wires has been going on extensively in the suburbs of Peking:—Smallpox is epidemic in Tientsin just now, especially among the children.

THE COOLIE QUESTION AND REGISTRATION.

(Daily Press, 13th March.)

The suggestion of our correspondent “J. R.” in another column, that we should in all cases where unruly native servants are brought to book by their employers furnish the names and a description in our Police Court report, is, we fear, an inadequate way of meeting the difficulties of the situation. The name of a Chinese boy or coolie can hardly be considered as a “fixed quantity” in all circumstances, for there are no existing means of detecting an alias. The impossibility of attempting to describe one Chinese servant in such a way that he will at once be recognised when he presents himself as candidate for a new post will readily be recognised. There is only one satisfactory manner of meeting the difficulty, and that is by some system of registration. Now it does not lie within the province of a daily journal to conduct a registry office. It does lie within the competence of the Government, and an opportunity has recently been offered to the local authorities of making a trial of registration in the case of those most troublesome of private servants, the chair and jinricksha coolies. A Commission was appointed to examine into the question of these employees and drew up a report recommending that a trial should be given to the registration of such, and that a system of regular fares and tickets should be adopted. As is well known now, the Government decided to reject these recommendations, at least as far as the registration scheme is concerned. The reasons for this action were given to the Legislative Council on Tuesday. H.E. the Governor in his minute to the Colonial Secretary and his despatch to the Secretary of State for the Colonies states the reasons for the Government's decision. They are based chiefly on part of the evidence given before the Commission, reinforced by the opinions of the members of the Executive Council, the only guide to which is the statement of Sir HENRY BLAKE that the Council's advice “was given on the ground that the recommendations, if carried out, were not calculated to bring about the desired result, nor, in the long run, to satisfy the employers of private coolies, inasmuch as the real causes of discontent appeared to be traceable to the state of the labour-market of Hongkong and China and other natural economic conditions.” With regard to this advice it is only to be remarked that it is not argument but expression of opinion. As to the evidence before the Commission, the members of the latter, after consideration of the statements of all the witnesses, came to the conclusion that registration was both advisable and feasible. The Government therefore must hold either that the Commission decided against the weight of evidence or that the witnesses hostile to the scheme were the more important, if less numerous, section. In his minute to the Colonial Secretary, H.E. the Governor presents various difficulties of the registration proposal. The masters, we are told, have been disinclined in the past to help in the scheme. Are we to assume therefore that the present outcry against the difficulty of procuring and retaining reliable chair and jinricksha-coolies is so superficial that the masters are in reality as supine as they seemed to be in the past? Is it not probable that the Government is taking the opportunity of damning the whole class for the negligence and want of public spirit exhibited by a few? Then again it is

said that by “weeding out” the supply of coolies will be rendered insufficient. We are apparently therefore to retain in our service the thieves, idlers, etc., for fear that there are not enough without them. The practical difficulties of identification, of which Mr. BREWIN made a strong point, are doubtless considerable, but surely for the public welfare it is necessary to face even considerable difficulties. A rough method of identification by photography and description combined does not seem beyond the realms of possibility. Next we are told that compulsory registration will produce a strike. Many useful reforms have produced strikes. The Commission recommended that the experiment should be made in the cold weather when chairs and jinrickshas are not a necessity. Moreover, a strike of the private coolies would be ineffective without a combination with the public bearers and pullers, who do not seem likely to throw away their chances of increased earnings just to oblige their rivals. With regard to the “sound economic principles” of which H.E. the Governor speaks, we cannot admit such vague locution as argument. We can see the glaring evils of the existing condition of affairs, but not the contribution which they make to the stability and prosperity of Hongkong. The opponents of registration see the evils, but fold their hands and say that the advice of the Committee appointed to investigate the matter is unsound. His Excellency concludes his letter to the Secretary of State by enclosing an extract from the *China Mail* of the 20th December “from which it appears that the difficulties dealt with by the Commissioners who drew up the report may be mitigated by other methods than those suggested by them—methods which would be less subversive of sound economic principles.” We regret to have to say that the paragraph in question was misleading and mischievous in its effect, if it persuaded anyone, official or unofficial, that the evils complained of had been in any way mitigated. Evidence to the contrary is easily procurable. Furthermore we may point out that the question of private chair-coolies is more acute than that of private jinricksha-coolies. Unless something very unexpected happens, this fact is bound to be appreciated in the coming hot season. We cannot compliment the Government on the way it has sought to justify its practical rejection of the Commission's recommendations. That the Attorney-General should find himself able to state that his Bill is, “save for some slight alterations, practically the Bill suggested by the Commission” is simply astounding. The principal suggestion is cut out bodily, and what the Hon. W. MEIGH-GOODMAN put before the Council is like a watch without its mainspring.

At the first general meeting of the shareholders of the Seoul-Pusan Railway Company, held on the 25th ult., a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. was declared. The money for payment of this dividend will be drawn from the subsidy granted by the Government, the company's line not yet being ready for traffic.

Father Doyle, Director of the Philippine Weather Bureau, has tendered his resignation for reasons of health, and the resignation has been accepted by the Civil Commission. Father Doyle has controlled the Weather Bureau and Observatory for many years, and his work has been most valuable, especially to mariners; so much so that two years ago the Hongkong Meteorological Department passed a resolution of thanks for the assistance rendered by the Manila Observatory. Father Doyle is succeeded by Father Miguel Sadero Maso, Assistant Director.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

SHANGHAI, 9th March, 9.45 a.m.
Chinese merchants from Port Arthur are arriving here in accordance with orders to remove their families, as Port Arthur is preparing for a war between Russia and Japan.

SIAMESE OUTRAGE IN PATANI.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

SINGAPORE, 12th March, 4.25 p.m.
The Rajah of Patani [in Siamese Malaya north of Perak] has been kidnapped by the Siamese. He was lured to a house and asked to sign a treaty whereby he abjured his right of governing his own State. When he refused he was surrounded by Siamese soldiers and carried on a gunboat up the coast. The Patani Malays are frantic, and serious trouble is feared. The Governor of the Straits Settlements has been asked to interfere.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 11th inst. in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY the Acting GOVERNOR, Major-General Sir W. GASCOIGNE, K.C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. M. GOODMAN, K.C. (Attorney-General).

Hon. Commander R. M. RUMSEY, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. A. W. BEKWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. J. THURBURN.

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Queen's College for the year 1901 by the Headmaster.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table financial minutes (Nos. 7 and 8), and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was carried.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 1), and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was adopted.

VOLUNTEERS AT THE CORONATION.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I beg, sir, to put the first question which stands in my name.

The question was:—"Will the Honourable the Colonial Secretary inform the Council whether the Government have taken into consideration the expediency of suggesting to the Colonial Office that members of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps in Great Britain during the Coronation of His Majesty King Edward the Seventh be invited to participate in the Coronation ceremonies as representatives of this Colony, without cost to the Colonial funds?"

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—No instructions regarding the Coronation have been received, but a communication has been addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies enquiring when such instructions may be expected.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I would like to supplement that answer by saying that in case, when we do receive an answer, there are no Colonial

Volunteers being invited to attend, or in case the number is so small that it would not admit of the Hongkong Volunteers, I myself would personally be very glad indeed to give letters of introduction to any member of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps who might happen to be on leave to any of the commanding officers so as to secure their attendance in connection with one of the crack Metropolitan Volunteer Corps, such as the Artists, the London-Scottish, the Inns of Court, or the Queen's Westminster, with each of which regiments I am intimately acquainted. (Applause).

CHAIR AND RICKSHA-COOLIES.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I beg, sir, to put the second question which stands in my name.

The question was:—"Will the Honourable the Colonial Secretary inform the Council whether the recommendations contained in the Report, dated Hongkong, 6th November, 1901, of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor, on 28th August, 1901, to enquire into and report on the question of the existing difficulty of procuring and retaining reliable chair and jinricksha-coolies for private chairs and jinrickshas, are to be carried out, and, if not to be carried out, explain the reason why?"

The COLONIAL SECRETARY in answer to this question laid on the table the following letter with enclosure, and also a minute by His Excellency the Governor.

Government House,

Hongkong, 31st December, 1901.

SIR,—I have the honour to report that, in consequence of a number of complaints which reached the Government in connection with the difficulties of procuring and retaining reliable coolies for private chairs and jinrickshas, I appointed a Commission, in August last, for the purpose of enquiring into the cause of these complaints and suggesting a remedy.

2. The Commission held fourteen meetings during the months of September, October and November, and examined a large number of witnesses.

The Report in which the evidence of these witnesses was reproduced, and in which the Commissioners formulated their suggestions for the removal of the alleged grounds of discontent, was submitted to me last month. I gave it my very careful consideration and perused all the evidence upon which the recommendations of the Commissioners were based.

3. I did not find myself in agreement with the deductions drawn from the evidence by the Commissioners, and was unable, therefore, to concur in their recommendation. I invited the Members of my Executive Council, however, to give me the benefit of their views on the subject, and caused them to be informed of the opinions held by myself.

4. On the 20th instant, the question was fully considered in Executive Council, especially as to the question whether there should or should not be compulsory registration of private coolies, and it was advised by a majority of the Members of Council that no steps should be taken to carry out recommendations of the Committee. This advice was given on the ground that the recommendations, if carried out, were not calculated to bring about the desired result, nor, in the long run, to satisfy the employers of private coolies, inasmuch as the real causes of discontent appeared to be traceable to the state of the labour market of Hongkong and China and other natural economic conditions.

5. I have now the honour to transmit for your information six copies of the Report together with a statement of my own views, which I drew up after reading the Report, but before I consulted the Executive Council.

6. I also enclose an extract from the *China Mail* of the 20th instant from which it appears that the difficulties dealt with by the Commissioners who drew up the Report may be mitigated by other methods than those suggested by them—methods which would be less subversive of sound economic principles.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

HENRY A. BLAKE,

Governor.

The Right Honourable
J. CHAMBERLAIN, M.P.,
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

(Enclosure.)

Extract from *China Mail* of the 20th
December, 1901.

The difficulty in procuring ricksha-coolies seems to have been almost met by the recent action of the authorities in placing 500 extra public rickshas on the streets. There are now twelve hundred of these conveyances plying in Hongkong, and the coolies, finding that their earnings are not so profitable as before, are throwing aside the public ricksha and going into private employ. The public ricksha owners grumble that many of their machines are lying idle for want of coolies. The grumble, of course, is justifiable when one takes into consideration the fact that the licensee has to pay \$72 a year to the Treasury for the licence for each ricksha.

The following is the minute:—

HONOURABLE COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I have very carefully read and considered this report and the evidence upon which it is based. The causes of the difficulties complained of are fairly set forth in the answer of the first witness to question 7 of page 1A—(a) the demand for coolies is greater and the coolies are more or less limited in number; (b) they are under no control and they can do as they like; (c) the cost of living has increased and wages are still going up. The latter reason given is borne out by 17 of the 32 responses in Appendix E, and is emphasised by Inspector Hanson in his answers to questions 9 and 10, page 11. On the other hand, as suggested in questions 3 and 4, page 14, as private chair coolies are usually housed, the increased cost of lodging outside ought to tend to increase the supply of private chair-coolies.

Another reason of the alleged discontent of private chair-coolies is that they object to performing the light work outside the mere carrying of chairs that has hitherto been within the scope of their duty.

The proposals put forward by the members of the Commission to meet this state of discomfort are compulsory registration of all coolies employed as private ricksha or chair-coolies, and the reduction of the fares of public ricksha and chair-coolies so that their possible earnings would cease to be a temptation to private chair coolies to leave private employment and become licensed public chair-coolies. The establishment of a coolie-farm was also suggested, question 10, page 15, but Mr. Hanson's answer "There is no doubt that if these people are put into the hands of one person, the community will have to pay largely for that man's monopoly," confirmed by Mr. Dyer Ball's answer, question 6, page 23, is borne out by the demand of Ngan Wing Chi, who has evidently been approached on the subject of a monopoly, and was prepared to undertake the supply of 2,700 private chair and ricksha-coolies in three classes, at eleven, ten, and nine dollars respectively.

On the subject of registration, the views of the witnesses are very divergent. Registration has been tried before and proved a failure, because the masters would not be troubled by any restriction of the kind so long as they could get their work done. Mr. M.'s answer to question 2, page 6, shows how far this disinclination went to accept any trouble even in a case where it was notified to the master by the police that one of his boys were a thief. The answer was: "Well, so long as he does not trouble me, I don't mind." The evidence of Mr. Lennys, late Crown Solicitor, showed that he was strongly opposed to any interference by compulsory registration of private coolies as an interference with freedom of contract, questions 6 to 9, page 29; and at question 6, page 3, he gives the reasons for the present difficulty, that is, that a street or cargo-coolie can earn more money than a private chair coolie. The evidence of Mr. Saunders, pages 92 to 99, is also very strongly against registration, on the grounds of interference with freedom of contract (question 3, page 94) and also of the danger of intensifying the present discomforts (question 4, page 94). "There is a limited supply of these people and, if you weed them out, there will be an insufficient supply." Mr. Saunders's evidence appears to have been rather a resistance to persistent arguments of the Commission in favour of registration making employment of unregistered coolies an offence, than the volunteering of his views on the questions under discussion.

Mr. Brewin, the Registrar General, declared himself in favour of compulsory registration, question 6, page 57, but the answers to the questions from 4, page 58, to question 7, page 59, show some of the practical difficulties of identification. The examination of the witnesses shows that the Commission entered upon the inquiry with strong views upon the advisability of compulsory registration and of the necessity for reducing the fares of the public ricksha coolies and chair-coolies so that their earnings would cease to induce private chair and ricksha coolies to elect to serve as public licensed coolies rather than to engage as private coolies. Inspector Hanson said (question 3, page 15) that two men can make from sixty to eighty dollars a month with a public ricksha, but at question 7, page 16, he places the probable duration of a coolie's ricksha life at three years, while Ngan Wan Chi in answer to question 11, page 99, shows that over ten of his ricksha-men have died because they had a long run over the new road from Kowloon to Shatin.

Mr. Brewin, in answer to question 6, page 60, said that cargo-coolies are the best paid. The question at the bottom of the page assumes that in such case the reduction of the ricksha and chair-fares would not have much effect in driving the men into private employ. Mr. Fung Wa Chun, question 10, page 65, placed the earnings of a street coolie with a pole at 40 cents a day, while other coolies make \$15 a month. And that the increase in wages is not confined to Hongkong is shown by Mr. Lau Chu Pak (questions 3 to 12, page 71) by which it appears that in South China wages have risen 30 per cent. in the villages. The first three witnesses agree that compulsory registration will probably produce a strike.

I have analysed the evidence thus carefully as I consider it highly undesirable to interfere with sound economic principles except very strong local reasons are shown—that I cannot find in the evidence given before the Commission. Freedom of the port and freedom of contract are two principles under which Hongkong has grown and prospered. The original Registration Ordinance was repealed because the European population showed that they did not care to avail themselves of its provisions, and the passing of such an Ordinance as is now recommended might have far-reaching consequences, extremely inconvenient to Europeans dependent upon the services of chair-coolies. It has been shown in the evidence that Registration Offices have been tried on more than one occasion and have failed from want of support, and it is evident that any master who desires to be satisfied as to the character of his chair-coolies, can refuse to engage any coolie who does not produce some evidence of his character. All that is required is a common agreement between a number of employers. Or if a number of people find it difficult to obtain coolies, it is evident from the statements of Chinese witnesses that there are men in the Colony who would undertake to supply them if arrangements were made with them. Mr. Hanson points out on page 14 the objection the Chinese coolies have to many restrictions, and it seems to me that compulsory registration would reduce the labour-supply and further raise the wages.

But the question as to fares and as to the issue of tickets, as recommended in para. 21, might be considered in Executive Council. In para. 20 Inspector Hanson's statement is quoted. These amounts may possibly have been earned in one of the busy months before the large increase of 1,200 rickshas, but, granting the statement that, for the year the average nett earning was \$10, this cannot be reckoned exorbitant remembering the short life of a ricksha-coolie, and is not more than can be earned by a cargo-coolie.

If a system of tickets could be adopted it would, in my opinion, save many disputes, especially with people who do not carry very small change, and who generally receive Chinese coins in exchange. I have spoken to Mr. Hewett on the Shanghai system which, he tells me, works well, and if such tickets were issued by Government, probably books of them would be bought freely and used by sailors, &c., &c. As to the amount, a sum equal to one penny farthing does not appear to be very startling even for the shortest journey, and is decidedly moderate for fifteen minutes, but could be

considered in Executive Council. Increased competition must bring down the earnings, and with lower fares we might find such a curtailment in the number of rickshas as would reproduce the inconvenience felt last year.

BELILIOS REFORMATORY.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I beg, sir, to put the third question which stands in my name.

The question was:—"Will the Honourable the Colonial Secretary lay upon the table a statement showing (1) the number of persons and/or young criminals who have been accommodated in the Belilios Reformatory at Causeway Bay from the time it was opened until 28th ultimo; (2) the total expenditure incurred in respect of these persons including the emoluments of the staff in the Reformatory; (3) the amount of public money, if any, expended on the building or in additions thereto and in connection with the maintenance of the building; (4) the yearly emoluments of the Reformatory staff; and (5) the number of persons now undergoing sentence lodged in the said Reformatory?"

The COLONIAL SECRETARY submitted the following reply:—"One child has been accommodated in the Belilios Reformatory from the date upon which it was opened up to the present day. There are no young criminals now resident there. The total cost in respect of the one inmate was nil, as he only remained in the building a very short time. The amount expended on the Reformatory up to date is as follows—(a.) Maintenance of buildings, furniture, &c., \$606.99; (b.) emoluments of officers connected with the institution, \$2,781.42; total, \$3,388.41. As there has been only one inmate of the Reformatory since it was first started, the Committee appointed by Sir Henry Blake to enquire into educational questions has been requested to consider and report what should be done as regards the Reformatory. The report of the Committee has not yet been received. When the Government is in possession of its views, steps will be taken without delay to deal with the question. Though the Master and Assistant Master have had nothing to do in the Reformatory, they have not been idle. They have been and are now employed by the Government in other Departments. Mr. Curwen, the Master, was for several months attached for special work to the Colonial Secretary's Office, and is now in the Postmaster-General's Department. Mr. Bullin, the Assistant Master, has been provisionally appointed First Clerk in the Registrar-General's Office. The money expended on account of their salaries has not therefore been wasted."

DEPOTS BYE-LAWS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the bye-laws made under section 13, sub-section 16, of "The Public Health Ordinance, 1901" with reference to depots for cattle, pigs, sheep, and goats, and moved their approval.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—In connection with the bye-laws just passed, I would wish to suggest that in future, if it be possible, such bye-laws be sent round to the papers beforehand, so that members may have an opportunity of reading and considering them and asking questions on such points as they may care to have information upon.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—With reference to what the hon. member has said, I think the request a perfectly reasonable one. As a matter of fact, these bye-laws were only just received from the printers, and the usual course of circulating them amongst the members could not be adopted on this occasion. As these bye-laws involve an increase of fees for the housing of cattle in the depots, I feel perfectly certain that the hon. member sitting opposite will be the last member of this Council to prevent the increase being granted at once.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—With reference to the last remark of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, I am not in a position to say whether I would or would not have opposed the increase. I only wished to suggest that it would be reasonable that members should have an opportunity of considering what the Council has in view, I have not raised any objections to the bye-laws being put into operation, because I believe them to be reasonable, or at least I conclude that they are reasonable, not having had an opportunity of inspecting them.

I think the suggestion I have made might be carried out in future.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I do not for a moment desire to throw any aspersions upon the reasonableness of the request of the hon. member. I only said I feel certain the hon. member would not desire to unnecessarily obstruct the Government work.

H. E. the ACTING GOVERNOR—I may explain that there was a special reason in this particular case why we should hurry up. I quite agree with the suggestion of the hon. member, and I shall take care that in future hon. members will be made aware beforehand what bye-laws are to be passed.

BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the first reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Buildings. There has been for some time past a strong feeling in the Colony that the laws relating to buildings should be consolidated and amended, and last year, at the time we passed the Public Health Ordinance, I then drafted a consolidated Bill; and when the various Ordinances were brought together and repealed and re-enacted in their proper places in that Bill came to be read, it became quite apparent that the law required not only consolidation but amendment; and having in view the fact that the experts in engineering matters—Professor Simpson and Mr. Chadwick—were on their way to the Colony, sent out at the request of the people of this Colony by the Secretary of State, the Director of Public Works asked leave to delay bringing on the measure until he could have the benefit of the advice of those gentlemen, whose great experience might suggest improvements in the building law. On the arrival of Mr. Chadwick, we lost no time in furnishing Mr. Chadwick and Professor Simpson with copies of the draft of our consolidating Bill, and we spent some four days together going through it clause by clause, making amendments and alterations as we thought desirable. I propose now to move the first reading and to leave it to your Excellency as to what is the more desirable course to pursue as regards the second reading. If we have a meeting this day week and the Bill is meantime published in the Gazette—perhaps an extraordinary Gazette, so as not to wait until Saturday—so that these interested may have an opportunity of reading the Bill, we might be able by next Monday, if that was so fixed, to go through the Bill in committee once on the second reading, passing, so far as the committee were concerned, all these clauses which appear unobjectionable to all the members. If there were any clauses that appeared to want consideration it seems to me advisable that these should stand over until some further opportunity, but we might pass such clauses as are not objected to. It is not usual to discuss a Bill on the first reading, but I thought it might be convenient in the case of this particular Bill to suggest to your Excellency the course I have put before you. I think this course will probably recommend itself to hon. members. Of course it is necessary that people should have time to read and consider a Bill of this kind, but I think a reasonable time would be afforded if it was published, say, tomorrow in the Gazette, and the unobjectionable clauses could be taken on Monday.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

H. E. the ACTING GOVERNOR—I would like to ask hon. members whether the course which is suggested is acceptable to them. It will enable them to see the Bill, and, as proposed, they can discuss on Monday those questions on which there can be no doubt, leaving the others for subsequent discussion. If there is no objection to that I would suggest that it be agreed to.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—At this moment I cannot very well bring forward any objection, because I have not had an opportunity of looking over the Bill. I would suggest, however, as soon as our meeting is over, copies of this Bill be sent to all architects and engineers in the place of what your Excellency has decided to do—issuing an extraordinary Gazette. The Gazette is not sent to everybody, only to subscribers, and sometimes it so happens that the community do not get an opportunity of getting the Gazette so easily. I would therefore suggest that notice be sent to the architects and

engineers and as much time as possible be allowed to the public to go over the Bill. It is headed a "Consolidation Bill"; but I believe, sir, from what I know, that there are a great many clauses in it which are entirely new.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It is not headed a "Consolidation Bill" but a "Bill to consolidate and amend"; so is the Public Health Act.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I think, sir, it is somewhat an unusual course for the Government to take to supply those people interested in a Bill with a copy of the Bill, and I think it would be rather a serious responsibility for this Government to undertake. I feel perfectly certain that those who are interested in a measure will have enough enterprise to take such steps as are necessary to supply themselves with copies; but I may state on behalf of the Government that copies of the Bill may be obtained on application to the Colonial Secretary's office by any member of the community who may have a desire to have a copy of the Bill in his possession. I think, sir, that will be a course more in accordance with the usual mode of procedure in such matters.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—The reason I suggested this was simply to facilitate the matter. If you do not accept some such method the consequence will be that I shall have to move postponement; therefore I think this should be done.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I cannot see for a moment how matters would be any more facilitated by the course suggested by the Senior Unofficial Member. If the people interested cannot take the trouble to apply for a copy it is difficult to see what is their interest in the matter. I think it is sufficient to let these persons know that if they want the Bill they can have it forwarded. If the Senior Unofficial Member could furnish us with a list of those members of the community whom he thinks it ought to be sent to we would know who are the people who ought to get copies; but otherwise it is impossible for us to know. I think the Council will agree with me when I say that the means we have suggested to supply the community with the necessary information are all that can be expected from the Government.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—It is not a very difficult matter to send out copies to the engineers and architects; there are only about half-a-dozen.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I know there are a great many more than the hon. member suggests, and if we selected half-a-dozen to whom copies should be sent, it might give rise to difficulty, if we left out any who desired copies or selected a few who should be furnished with them.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I would suggest that we put an advertisement in the paper, along side the *Gazette*, saying that any person who might desire a copy can obtain them at the Colonial Secretary's office. There is a good deal in the contention that if we select a certain number to whom to forward copies and happen to leave out accidentally any who might be entitled to receive them, we might get ourselves into a difficulty.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I defer to your Excellency's opinion.

FIRST READING.

The following Bill was submitted and read a first time:—An Ordinance for the nationalisation of Chü Ship Chün, alias Chü Le, alias Chü Man Tin, alias Chü K'au Mei.

PRIVATE CHAIR AND RICKSHA COOLIES.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to provide for the more effectual control of chair and jinricksha coolies in private employ. He said—As your Excellency is aware, some time ago a commission was appointed, and they made a report on the subject of registering all chair and ricksha coolies in private employ. The Government were not in a position to carry out the whole of the recommendations of the Commission, but at all events a part of them received the favourable attention of the Government, and I was accordingly directed to draw up a Bill on the lines of the one before us, which, save for some slight alterations, is practically the Bill suggested by the Commission. We have taken from this Bill the whole of the clause relating to registration, and the objects and reasons

attached, which no doubt hon. members have read, explain the reason for that. It seems there has been some difficulty owing to a decision which rendered it doubtful whether chair coolies and ricksha coolies in private employ could be considered technically to be domestic servants within the meaning of the law providing for domestic servants. I do not think this difficulty would have occurred to me. There is no reason why such coolies, residing on the premises, should be exempted from the penalty for misconduct to which house boys, house coolies, and cooks have been liable for considerably more than fifty years in this Colony. This Ordinance places them accordingly on an equality with ordinary Chinese domestic servants in that respect. On these grounds I beg to move the second reading of this Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a second time.

The Council then went into committee on the Bill and considered it clause by clause.

On the Council resuming, there being no alterations, the Bill, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, was read a third time and passed.

WRITERS AND LAW AGENTS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to define the meaning of the word "writers," as used in Ordinance No. 3 of 1871. He said—This has become desirable, because the local Act for the admission of solicitors uses the word "writers." Now, as regards those who are practising in Scotland, the question arose whether, if a Scotch law agent came here and showed his diplomas, he would be allowed to practise here, because the Act only mentions Scotch writers. The opinion of the Crown Agent for Scotland was taken by the Colonial Office, and he thought it would certainly do no harm to amend the law so as to include law agents.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a second time.

The Council then went into committee on the Bill, and considered it clause by clause.

On the Council resuming, there being no alterations, the Bill, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, was read a third time and passed.

NEW TERRITORIES LAND COURT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The New Territories Land Court Ordinance, 1900 (No. 18 of 1900), and The New Territories Land Court Amendment Ordinance, 1901 (No. 27 of 1901). He said—This Ordinance was sent home and obtained the approval of the Secretary of State, who, however, desired two slight amendments to be made. These are specifically mentioned in the objects and reasons appended to the Bill, and are:—1st—The omission of the words "the acquisition of" in the second line; 2nd—The substitution of the words "ought to be resumed for public purpose within the meaning of Section 2 of the Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance, 1900," for the words, "is required in the public interests." These amendments were made, but I thought it better to re-enact the section with these alterations included.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a second time.

The Council then went into committee on the Bill, and considered it clause by clause.

On the Council resuming, there being no alterations, the Bill, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, was read a third time and passed.

REGISTRATION OF DEEDS, ETC.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Ordinance to provide for the Registration of Deed, Will, Judgments and Conveyances affecting real or immovable property in Hongkong (No. 3 of 1844). He said—I think you will agree that the objects and reasons appended to the Bill are sufficient explanation. They are as follows:—Since the Ordinance for the Registration of Deeds, etc., in the Land Office (Ordinance No. 3 of 1844) came into force, statutory provision has been made for the registration of a *Lis Pendens* (Ordinance No. 10 of 1856), and for the registration of its

discharge, as well as for the issue by the Land Officer of a Certificate of entry of such discharge (Ordinance No. 2 of 1896). Moreover, the Code of Civil Procedure, Ordinance No. 5 of 1901, requires a Writ of Foreign Attachment to be registered in the Land Office, and makes provision for the filing in such office of a Certificate that the Writ has been dissolved, or that the judgment in the action has been satisfied (see section 462). Fees to be paid for these matters were fixed by the said Code. It became, therefore, in any case desirable to amend the original List of Fees specified in Ordinance No. 3 of 1844, and to bring it into line with the present practice of the Office. Some few fees seem also to have been received and paid over to the Colonial Treasurer, without express Statutory authority, the Land Officer acting on instructions received from time to time by the Government, as for instance in the case of the reasonable charges for parchment plans and for affixing the Public Seal to Crown Leases. Ordinance No. 5 of 1883 authorises the charge of \$5 for the official Signature of the Governor, and it has been the practice of the Land Office to charge this fee for affixing the Public Seal to a Crown Lease which is also signed by the Governor, such practice having been authorised for more than fifty years. It is provided by this Ordinance that one fee shall cover both the Seal and the Signature. It seemed better that all such fees should receive proper Statutory authority and their receipt heretofore be validated and legalised. The fees, in many instances, might, not unfairly, have been raised in view of the greatly diminished value of the dollar now, as compared with A.D. 1844; but this has only been done in one instance, namely, where deeds, etc., are registered relating to more than one lot or section of a lot. In some instance several lots are included in one instrument and additional work is thereby thrown on the Land Officer. In such cases the registration fee is raised to ten dollars instead of five.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a second time.

The Council then went into committee and considered it clause by clause.

On the Council resuming, the Bill was read a third time and passed, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to further amend The Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891. He said—Last year an Ordinance was passed which dealt with Chinese firms and the question of their being made bankrupt. It was subjected to a good deal of consideration and was looked into a great deal by Sir John Carrington. It was sent home and referred to the Board of Trade, and the opinion of Mr. Muir Mackenzie, who, I take it, is counsel to the Board, was taken. He points out what he deems to be a singular defect in the Bankruptcy Amendment Ordinance, 1901, viz., that it does not deal with the case of a foreigner trading in his own name by an agent in the Colony. Cases of that kind occur seldom, if ever, among the Chinese in Hongkong, and the Ordinance in question was passed to meet the hardship disclosed by the local case of *Re Kung Hing ex parte Ah Wee* (July 9th, 1900). It was approved of both by the Chief Justice who tried the case in question and by the Chamber of Commerce. The object of the present Ordinance is to make the further amendment pointed out by Mr. Muir Mackenzie as desirable. There can be little doubt that Ordinance No. 2 of 1901, as supplemented by this Ordinance, effects a considerable improvement in our local law, having regard to the special circumstances of Hongkong. I do not want it to be taken in substitution of the other Bill, but as supplementary to it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council then went into committee on the Bill.

Upon the Council resuming the Bill was read a third time and passed, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SUPREME COURT SUMMARY JURISDICTION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second

reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to further amend The Supreme Court Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance, 1873. He said—The Code of Civil Procedure, 1873, was repealed by Ordinance No. 6 of 1901, and the new Code of Civil Procedure (Ordinance No. 5 of 1901) has taken its place. As, however, in the interpretation clause of Ordinance No. 14 of 1873, dealing with Summary Jurisdiction, the expression "Code of Civil Procedure" was defined to mean "the Code of Civil Procedure introduced by Ordinance No. 13 of 1873," some difficulty has arisen, and it has been thought desirable to leave no doubt that the provisions of the old Code of Civil Procedure no longer apply to the Supreme Court in its Summary Jurisdiction and to make the provisions of the new Code applicable. Under the new Code of Civil Procedure, no register of suits is established: its place is taken by a Cause Book. (See section 690 of the new code.) The twelve hours' notice of special defence has been found in practice to be too short. Section 35 of Ordinance No. 14 of 1873 appears to be superfluous, now that the new Code is substituted for that of 1873. The alteration in section 50 is necessary to make the forms in use at any time in the Supreme Court applicable to the Summary Jurisdiction of that Court.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council then went into Committee on the Bill.

On the Council resuming, the Bill was read a third time and passed, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Council adjourned till Monday next.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately afterwards, the Colonial Secretary, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lochart, C.M.G., presiding.

The CHAIRMAN—There are only two minutes for the consideration of the Committee to-day, and in the first of these the Officer Administering the Government recommends the Council to vote a sum of £333. 6s. 8d. as a contribution towards a laboratory to be established at the country branch of the Jenner Institute in England for the preparation of Yersin's Curative Serum for Bubonic Plague. I think, gentlemen, the simplest manner of explaining why this laboratory is required would be to read the despatch from the Secretary of State on the subject.

The despatch was a lengthy one, and gave in detail the reasons for the granting of the vote, which was agreed to.

GRANT TO ROYAL NAVAL SEAMEN'S CLUB.

The CHAIRMAN—In the next minute the Officer Administering the Government recommends the Council to vote a sum of \$300, being the amount of the contribution of the Government for 1901 towards the Royal Naval Seamen's Club, which was voted last year, but lapsed in consequence of no application having been made by the Naval Authorities for payment. This sum, as you will see, was voted last year, but through an oversight no payment was made.

The vote was agreed to.

This was all the business.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 10th inst. in the Board Room for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken in view of the fact that it is not possible at present to secure Indian assistant plague surgeons. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President) occupied the chair, and there were also present Hon. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General (Vice-President); Lieut-Col. Hughes, R.A.M.C.; Mr. R. J. Badesley, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. Lau Chupak; and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

The PRESIDENT—Gentlemen, a telegram has been received from India stating that the Indian Government are not able to obtain for us any assistant surgeons, as we requested, owing to their being required locally. The Board have been requested to consider what recommendation should be made in view of this reply. I move that a similar telegram be sent to the

British Minister at Tokyo as was sent to the Indian Government, requesting that we may be granted the services of eight qualified medical men, three of them specially trained in bacteriology. It will be as well to add that it would be preferable for us to obtain the services of those who can speak English on account of possible difficulties in interpretation.

Lieut.-Colonel HUGHES seconded, and the motion was unanimously agreed to.

This was all the business.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 25th February, present: Sir Thomas Jackson (Chairman), Mr. C. S. Sharp (Vice-Chairman), Messrs. A. Haupt, E. A. Hewett, Hon. J. J. Bell Irving, W. Poate, R. L. Richardson, H. E. Tomkins, Hon. T. H. Whitehead (*ex-officio*), and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last monthly meeting (held 14th January) were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBERS.

The SECRETARY reported that the following had been admitted to membership since the previous meeting:—

The Guaranty Trust Company of New York.
The Tai Shing Paper Manufacturing Co., Limited.

THE PROPOSED ASHES MONOPOLY.

A letter from the Government, dated 18th January, in continuation of previous correspondence, and stating that they had decided to sign a contract giving the monopoly to collect ashes in the harbour to an individual under strict guarantees, having been received.

A reply was despatched, on the 27th January, to the Colonial Secretary strongly protesting against the creation of this monopoly and begging the Government to reconsider its decision.

Read reply to above, dated 29th January, stating that the Government was of opinion that it would be well to give the new system a fair trial, but that its working would be closely watched and any complaints received would be promptly investigated.

Some discussion took place, and the general opinion was that as the Government had determined to sign the contract nothing could be done but to watch results. It was decided to reply to the above letter, thanking the Government for its pledges to promptly investigate complaints, but to adhere unmistakably to the principle laid down with regard to the fundamental objection entertained to all Chinese monopolies.

PREFERENTIAL DUTIES.

Read letter from British Minister at Peking, dated 28th December, in reply to the Chamber's letter of the 11th idem, to the effect that the subject of the preferential duties accorded by the Hoppe of Canton to junk-borne cargoes would have His Excellency's serious attention.

The CHAIRMAN said that this letter was very satisfactory and had been promptly translated into action. The transfer of the collection of the Native Customs to the Imperial Maritime Customs had taken place, he understood, but there were reports prevalent that the preferential rates were still maintained. He had no advices on the subject himself, but the statement seemed to lack official confirmation. Perhaps some member of the Committee could throw some light upon it or possessed some information.

Mr. POATE said he would read a letter, dated the 14th February, which had been received from Canton announcing that the following notification concerning the Native Customs had been circulated that day by the Imperial Maritime Customs:—

"In conformity with instructions from Peking, arrangements have been completed for the transfer of the control of the Native Customs (Chang Kuan) to this office on and including the 19th inst. (the 10th day of the 1st moon). The work will be carried on as heretofore, and no material changes are at present in contemplation."

That notification was signed by the Commissioner of Customs. Nothing further had been received and nothing had since transpired that

he was aware of. He thought that they had better wait results of enquiries that were being made.

The Committee acquiesced, the opinion being that the phrase referred to the method of working and not the perpetuation of the competition which it was known had been carried on for years by the Hoppe to the detriment of the Imperial Maritime Customs.

THE TARIFF AND TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

A letter in reply to Sir James Mackay's letter of the 7th January, was despatched on the 17th idem, with a supplementary addition on the 23rd idem.

Read letters from the Special Commissioner in reply to these, dated 4th and 11th February, the latter giving the result of an interview, Sir James had with Mr. Tyler, Deputy Coast Inspector of Shanghai, from which Sir James has formed the conclusion that the improvements needed in lighting the Coast are fully recognised by the Imperial Maritime Customs, who propose to carry them into effect in the order of their importance and subject to necessary limitations as regards time and expense.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought this assurance was very satisfactory, as indeed were all the communications received from Sir James Mackay.

Mr. HEWETT was disinclined to accept the assurances of the Customs. He thought nothing would be done after the pledges had been received. They had no money.

THE BURMA-SHAN-CHINA RAILWAY.

The SECRETARY stated that a reply to the letter from the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce bespeaking the support of this Chamber for the above scheme was despatched on the 18th January to the effect decided upon at the last meeting, viz., that the Chamber is not prepared to support their Memorial owing to the heavy outlay the project would entail.

THE PROPOSED EXHIBITION

AT S. LOUIS, U.S.A.

The SECRETARY reported that replies were sent to letters of the U.S. Consul-General and the Colonial Secretary on this subject in the terms agreed upon at the last meeting, a copy of the letter addressed to the former being also enclosed in that to the Colonial Secretary.

TELEGRAPH RATES TO EUROPE.

The SECRETARY announced that a letter was addressed, on the 17th January, to the Manager of the Joint Telegraph Companies asking if he could afford the Chamber any information as to the date when the promised reduction in the telegraph rates to Europe would be likely to come into effect.

Read letter from the Manager of the Joint Telegraph Co.'s in reply to above, stating that no advice had reached the office here of any reduction in the telegraph rates to Europe, but that the writer was forwarding a letter of enquiry to the Directors in London by the mail then leaving. Mr. Von der Pfordten also sent a copy of the *Electrician* of the 13th December containing an account of a complimentary dinner recently given to Sir John Denison-Pender for the perusal of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN said they must await the reply from London, he supposed. He noticed in the Indian papers an announcement that the rate to India had been reduced to 2/6 per word. If this were correct, and he had no reason to doubt it, there was good ground to expect that the reduction would be extended to the Far East.

CLAYTON'S APPARATUS FOR FUMIGATING SHIPS.

Read letter from the Colonial Secretary, dated 29th Jan., enclosing communication from the Clayton Fire Extinguishing and Ventilating Co., Ltd., to the Crown Agents, and other enclosures, with regard to an apparatus devised for pumping SO₂ gas into the holds of ships for the destruction of rats, and requesting that the Committee would give the apparatus their consideration.

The Committee were not in favour of this apparatus, so far as its application to vessels passing through the ports was concerned, most of which carried cargo for other ports beyond, and they did not see how it was practicable to employ it here.

Decided to answer to this effect.

POSTAL GRIEVANCES FROM AMOY.

The SECRETARY reported that on the 27th January a letter was received from the Amoy Chamber of Commerce asking this Chamber to urge upon the Postal Authorities the necessity of fixing a later hour for closing mails by steamers leaving at daylight than that then fixed, viz., 5 p.m. In response to this appeal a letter was addressed to the Postmaster-General setting forth the grievance and also complaining of the recent alteration of the hour for posting printed matter by the homeward mails. To this letter a reply was received the following day in which the Postmaster-General promised to grant later facilities for posting per steamers leaving Hongkong at daylight, and he also readily complied with the Chamber's suggestion to revert to the former hour of closing the mail for printed matter by homeward packets. On the 6th February letters were addressed to the Amoy Chamber, giving results of representation to Postal Authorities, and to the Acting Postmaster-General thanking him for his prompt attention to the complaint and expressing the Committee's satisfaction with the proposed arrangements.

Read letter of acknowledgment from the Amoy Chamber, dated 13th February, expressing satisfaction with the new arrangement and thanking the Committee for representing the case to the Postal Authorities.

The CHAIRMAN said that the Postmaster-General had promptly removed what was quite a grievance. He referred to the change of hour for closing the mail for printed matter.

THE FRENCH TARIFF AND HONGKONG PRODUCE.

Read letter from the Government, received on the 22nd January, enclosing copy of despatch received from the Secretary of State announcing that the French Government had introduced a Bill into the Chamber of Deputies authorising the grant of the benefit of the minimum tariff to the produce of Hongkong for so long as French produce imported into the Colony is accorded "most favoured nation treatment."

QUARANTINE.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary enclosing copy of telegram received from H.B.M.'s Consul at Batavia, as follows:—"Hongkong declared to be infected with bubonic plague"; and attaching copy of a letter from the Consul-General for the Netherlands, dated 24th February, stating that vessels arriving from Hongkong in Netherlands Indian ports would be subject to ten days' quarantine.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD said he was given to understand that the Government had favourably considered the expediency of amending the bye-laws annexed to the Public Health Ordinance, No. 13 of 1901, so as to empower the Sanitary Board to take such steps as may be requisite in connection with the periodical outbreak of plague without the necessity of formally declaring any district in the Colony as an area infected with plague. This action had been taken in consequence of his having given notice of a question on the subject to be put at a meeting of the Council to be held on the 27th inst., which would have very beneficial results to the shipping of the port.

THE HEALTH OF HONGKONG.

During the 24 hours ending at noon on Thursday a fatal Chinese case of plague was reported, making the third case and death this year.

The Principal Civil Medical Officer of Health reported on 10th inst. that there were then three smallpox patients under treatment in Kennedytown Hospital, an increase of one case over the number reported on the previous day. One case only came from the Sailors' Home; the two other cases came from ships in the Harbour.

The Government Bacteriologist has certified that the five suspicious cases which were detected among the Japanese crew of the steamer *Riojun Maru* are cases of Asiatic cholera. In addition to the two deaths which occurred on board that vessel, one of the three patients who were taken to the epidemic hulk *Hygieia* has succumbed. The remaining two are stated to be in a fair way towards recovery. No new cases have been notified since. The naval authorities have as a precautionary measure curtailed the men's leave on shore.

At Canton, the epidemic is reported to be

still raging very severely, despite the efforts of the Chinese to belittle the seriousness of the outbreak. On the 7th inst. another European, died in the person of Mr. David Duncan, a brother of Mr. George Duncan, late of Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co. In this case, however, it is not certain yet that cholera was the cause of death. Mr. Duncan had suffered from diarrhoea and was seized with cramps in the stomach on Thursday immediately after the funeral of a fellow employee of the Customs. The medical officer, however, states that only a *post-mortem* examination can show what was the actual cause of death. In consequence of the appearance of the disease among the Customs employees, several of them have fled the service and are now in Hongkong. Those remaining have been removed from their old dwellings at Honam and are now living in large house-boats on the river as a precaution against the spread of the disease among them.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE IN 1901.

The annual report on Queen's College, by Dr. G. H. Bateson Wright, D.D., Head Master, is published in the *Gazette*. We make the following extracts:—

On the 22nd January, 1892, I first arrived in the Colony to assume the duties of Headmaster. I propose, therefore, briefly to compare the conditions existing twenty years ago and now:—

	1901.	1881
Total No. on the roll....	1,483	562
Average daily attendance, ..	894	336
Monthly maximum, ..	1,154	451
Daily maximum, ..	1,29	—
School fees, ..	\$28,424.00	\$4,051.00
Expense to the Government, ..	\$15,475.04	\$10,550.15
Average expense of each scholar ..	\$17.31	\$27.35

Thus at the present time we have twice and a half as many boys as twenty years ago; fees seven times the amount; total net annual expense to Government one and a half times, while the cost of each individual scholar is nearly two-thirds of the figures in 1882.

I arrived at a time when the work at the Central School had been publicly called in question, and my opinion, as a stranger, was desired. At the prize distribution, after conducting the examination, I was able truthfully to say to Sir John Pope Hennessy that I was surprised at the success of Chinese boys in coping with the difficulties of the English language; and I may add that this impression has not faded, but, on the contrary, has been confirmed with increased experience. That a Chinese boy should in five years advance from the study of the alphabet to an intelligent acquaintance with a play of Shakespeare and a period of English history is to me little short of the miraculous; when due allowance is made for the novelty of the simplest ideas, which are conveyed in idioms, without parallel in his own language.

The chief points of contrast between the examination held by me in 1882 (which naturally is indelibly printed on my brain) and the examination just concluded, are as follows: The papers now are nearly all clean and remarkably well written; whereas twenty years ago these were the exception, the majority of papers being dirty and almost illegible. The standard now applied is infinitely severer; in 1882 the action of the gauge was very delicate and sympathetic; e.g., if from a hopeless translation, you could decipher that the boy had a fairly correct idea of the original, he was allowed to pass; in Composition, three sentences grammatically correct constituted the test of a pass, irrespective of subject matter; in Arithmetic, there was an allowance for method, which was supposed to condone for a wrong digit in even a total or product; beyond all this, personal element was introduced into the equation in the case of delicate or weak-minded boys, or of whose attendance had been affected by sickness or other cause. I objected to anything but a rigid uniform standard being applied to all alike; and maintained that, in mathematical subjects except for slight clerical error, no leniency could be shown. The severer standard was gradually adopted, to avoid pressing too heavily at first.

A further proof of the increase of standard is to be found in the larger proportion of boys

examined in certain subjects. Every boy is now examined in Reading, as against three-quarters of the school. All the Chinese are examined in Translations, whereas in 1882 20 per cent. did not offer these subjects. More than half the boys are now examined in English Composition, as against less than one-quarter in 1882; in Grammar 85 per cent. as compared with 46 per cent. and in Geography 66 per cent. with 39 per cent. The full significance of the difference will be more apparent when it is understood that 781 boys were in 1902 examined in English Grammar as against 170 in 1882. On the other hand, twenty years ago, Copy-writing was accepted for more than three-quarters of the whole school as a subject which might assist in averting failure; this concession is now made to only one-seventh. Several subjects now forming part of the curriculum were not taught in 1881—Shakespeare, Algebra, Euclid, Mensuration, Bookkeeping, Natural Science, and Physiology. One outcome of this general raising of the standard of education in Queen's College has been that for the last twelve years, through entering for the Oxford Local Examinations, our boys have, with varying success, been able to submit to a test of their English attainments by English examiners in England.

I feel confident that this brief historical review will not be misconstrued into an expression of satisfaction with either the progress made or the standard attained in so long a period as twenty years. My desire is merely to place on record a statement of the fact that some advance, however inadequate, has been made in that time. No one can be more eager or ambitious than myself to see the standard of work at Queen's College raised immeasurably higher; but I may perhaps be permitted to say that nobody knows better the inherent difficulties in the way. The formation of an Advanced Class above and beyond the First Class has long been a cherished scheme of mine. Unfortunately, however, less than half a dozen boys remain in the College at the beginning of the new school year, who would be fit to proceed to higher work; and of these we should have no assurance whatever that any would remain so long as even six months, whereas two years would be the least possible time in which any result could be hoped to be effected; and in saying this I refer to both non-Chinese and Chinese alike. Of circumstances not under our control, it is to be noted that, so long as plague recurs annually in the Colony, education must suffer.

The present most crying educational needs of Queen's College would appear to be:—

(a) The maintenance of the full strength of the English staff, vacancies being supplied as expeditiously as possible.

(b) More efficient training of Junior Chinese Assistants by the appointment of a Normal Master, who, for a small extra salary (like that of the Headmaster of the Police School), should devote, in addition to his ordinary class duties, six hours a week to the careful instruction of Pupil Teachers.

(c) The restoration of Native Chinese Schools for the boys in the Lower and Preparatory Schools.

(d) The erection, or enlargement, of schools at Wai Tsai and Saiyingpuu under English Masters, to act as feeders to Queen's College, the curriculum of which place would have to be carefully followed, that boys might on admission be fit for the Upper School or for Class IV at the lowest.

I returned to the Colony after eighteen months' leave and resumed duties on 1st November, 1901. Mr. A. J. May (Second Master) has been Acting Headmaster during my absence, evidently devoting himself most energetically to foster the welfare of the College. I may especially mention that it was due to his judicious arrangements that increased accommodation was provided at the beginning of the year, and that considerable improvement was secured in the Annual and Oxford Local Examinations.

The following summary shows the result of the Examination in the various sections and the College generally:—Upper School, 269 boys examined 238 boys or 89 per cent. passed; Lower School, 362 boys examined 332 boys or 92 per cent. passed; Preparatory School, 279 boys examined 271 boys or 98 per cent. passed;

Whole College, 910 boys examined 841 boys or 92 per cent. passed.

On the whole, this is the best examination within my memory for many years. There is a manifest improvement in the non-Chinese sections. The excellence of the English Composition in the Chinese Classes IIA-IVC inclusive was, in my opinion, the chief feature of the Examination. English Grammar and History were subjects specially good in all classes.

The results at the Oxford Local Examinations held at this centre were most encouraging, the number of certificates obtained last July by boys of this College being far in excess of previous successes for many years, there being 4 Junior, and 9 Preliminary.

Two years ago, the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, in his address at the prize-distribution in this hall, expressed a hope that a gymnasium might be provided for the use of our boys. The matter has been under the consideration of the Government and plans were submitted some months ago by the Honourable the Director of Public Works. The issue is awaited with interest.

The playground accommodation originally intended for 700 boys is naturally barely sufficient for 1,000. It has been suggested that a triangular piece of waste ground to the south-west of the College might be given for this purpose by the Government. The cost of levelling and enclosing the College might be given for this purpose by the Government. The cost of levelling and enclosing would not appear to be a very serious consideration. It might, however, be more advantageous to erect the gymnasium on this site, instead of encroaching on the lower playground.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION MEETING AT SHANGHAI.

The *N.-C. Daily News* of the 4th inst. says:—

The special meeting of the China Association held yesterday at the Shanghai Club "to discuss the reported proposal of a 15 per cent. duty on imports and the abolition of *lekin*" was well attended, Mr. J. L. Scott being in the chair. The first resolution: "That this meeting deprecates any agreement being entered into with the Chinese Government, involving any increase of the present rate of import duty, viz., 5 per cent. *ad valorem* whether subject to the abolition of all *lekin* or not, as judging by past experience and pledges given by the Chinese Government could not be held to be an effective guarantee of their fulfilment," was proposed by Mr. E. A. Probst, seconded by Mr. E. S. Little, and carried by a considerable majority, the meeting evidently appreciating the argument that by agreeing to the reported proposal they would be sacrificing the substance and grasping a shadow. Mr. J. O. P. Bland and Mr. W. B. Jamieson both spoke well and at considerable length against the resolution, which was ably defended by Mr. E. S. Little, but the Committee of the Association on whose inspiration it is stated that Sir James Mackay is acting, made no sign. A second resolution: "That whilst viewing with disfavour the system of *lekin* and recognising the difficulties attending its immediate abolition, it is expedient to obtain safeguards against any increase in the said tax as at present levied, and to urge the Chinese Government to reform and regulate the collection thereof whereby the Provincial Treasuries may be more directly benefited," had the same proposer and seconder, and was carried with only one or two dissentients. Further resolutions on the same subject which had been sent in to the Chairman were stopped by an amendment moved by Mr. W. D. Little and seconded by Mr. Skottowe.

It is well arguable that the entire abolition of internal taxation, if it could be assured, would not be dearly purchased by the proposed increase of the import duty; but the "if," as Mr. Probst said, is a very large one; there is no certainty that the Chinese Government would accept the proposal in the face of the dismay it would cause to the provincial officials; and it is very doubtful whether other Foreign Powers would agree to it. We are not in possession of the arguments that have persuaded the British Commissioner to this proposal; but we very much fear that in devoting his time to it, he is beating the air;

and it seems certain that importers generally are not convinced that the prospective compensation is worth the certain increase in the duty.

MR. A. G. WARD'S SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT.

The first of the two subscription concerts arranged by Mr. A. G. Ward was given on the 11th inst. in St. Andrew's Hall, and was attended with the success which the promoter deserved. There was a large audience present (notwithstanding the rival attraction, *A Trip to Chinatown*, at the Theatre) and they showed complete appreciation of the excellent programme put before them and were rightly liberal in their bestowal of applause. Part I was devoted to solo songs and instrumental music; Part II to the charming song-cycle entitled "The Daisy Chain." The concert was suitably opened with a pianoforte duet by Messrs. Galluzzi and Ward, their selection being a "Waltz" by Scharwenka; this was rendered in the masterly style which was to be expected from these artists. Following upon this came a song by Mr. Geo. P. Lammert, "Bid me to love," with violin obligato by Mrs. Ough. The number was well suited to Mr. Lammert's robust tenor voice and won the singer hearty plaudits, as the rendition of the obligato did the instrumentalist. Mr. Lammert, though a trifle hoarse, put great feeling into his singing. Mrs. Ough received a grand reception for all her contributions: the tone she drew from her instrument was excellent. In the *allegretto* and *allegro* and *molto vivace* passages from Grieg's "Sonata for Violin and Pianoforte" Mrs. Ough and Mr. Ward performed excellently together. Later on in the evening, Mrs. Ough gave two solos—Elgar's "Salut d'Amour" and Goens's "Scherzo"—both of which brought out markedly her executorial ability and artistic skill: as an encore she gave a "Madrigal" by Seminetti. Mrs. Badeley sang sweetly and tastefully two songs, "Love the Pedlar" and "Ecstasy" (Beach) and for a recall "Snowflakes" (Cowan). In "Pleurez! Mes Yeux," a fine air from Massenet's well-known opera *Le Cid*, Mrs. D. E. Brown's splendidly trained voice and dramatic rendition were heard to perfection. Responding to the unanimous applause, Mrs. Brown gave Nevin's "The Rosary." Mrs. Mudie excellently rendered "A Wayside Posy" (Watson) and quite a new song by Somerville, "When Crocuses upon the Green," also, as an encore, "The Skye Boat Song," and well sustained the eminent artistic reputation she has gained by her several appearances. Mrs. Mudie, by the way, made her debut on the Hongkong concert platform at a concert given by Messrs. Marsh and Ward in October, 1900. Mr. C. H. P. Hay gave two new songs by Ward, "There were no Stars" and "The Countryman," pretty compositions both, in respect to which music-lovers in the Colony have to thank Mr. Ward for their introduction on so fitting an occasion and Mr. Hay for the pleasing interpretation given by him. The only other item in the first part of the programme was the lovely pianoforte solo, Chopin's "Polonaise in C sharp minor," performed by Mr. Ward with his accustomed ability.

Part II was taken up entirely with "The Daisy Chain." The composition of Liza Lehmann, this song-cycle has attained to a degree of popularity at home which has put all other similar compositions into something approaching eclipse. It is arranged for four voices, and the words have been borrowed from such auriferous sources as the child-songs of Alma Tadema, R. L. Stevenson, Norman Gale, and W. B. Rands. The arrangement of the music, consonant with the lyrics, is light and playful, and tuneful withal. Under Mr. Ward's direction, the piece was undertaken by Mrs. D. E. Brown, Miss Ramsay, Messrs. Geo. P. Lammert and C. H. P. Hay. In its preparation, Mr. Ward has had to battle with no inconsiderable difficulties, for both the contralto and tenor, who it had been originally intended should appear, were compelled at what might almost be termed the last moment to forego their intention. The breach was soon filled, however, and as the result of hard and untiring rehearsal

"The Daisy Chain" was rendered last evening in a manner that did credit to all concerned. There were in all four quartets, and two solos for each voice. Mrs. Brown's numbers were "If no one ever marries me" and "The Swing"; Miss Ramsay, who has a sweet-toned contralto voice, sang "Fairies" and "The ship that sailed into the sun"; while Mr. Lammert gave "Stars" and "The Moon," and Mr. Hay "Keepsake Mill" and "Mustard and Cress." All acquitted themselves so well that mention of any one in particular would be invidious. Each item was excellently done, and elicited frequent applause. The lisp simplicity in words and score of "Foreign Children" and "Seeing the World" was well brought out. Some natural curiosity had been felt as to what would be the effect of Mr. Ward's boldness in slightly changing Liza Lehmann's arrangement of the songs. It had appeared to the conductor that the concluding quartet "Blind Man's Buff," with its rollicking, laughing music, constituted rather an anticlimax, and that the substitution of the more fervid "Thank you very much indeed" in its stead would provide a more fitting finale. By all those who heard last night's concert it must be admitted that this slight alteration had the happiest result. The last quartet formed an imposing climax and that which it displaced went to relieve the effect of four solos coming together consecutively. "The Daisy Chain" completely caught the fancy of the audience. The whole concert, to quote the opinion of one of the lady singers, was "fine." Mr. Ward's accompanying could not have been improved on. The concert terminated at a few minutes past eleven.

It is worthy of special mention that the concert was commenced punctually at nine o'clock, which is rather exceptional for this Colony. Nearly half of the audience arrived late, and it was very annoying to those who were punctual—as well as a slight to the instrumentalists—to have their enjoyment militated by the rustling of skirts and creaking of chairs. One thing, however, we were pleased to observe, viz., those present did not, as usually occurs, compliment (*à la*) the performers by applauding during the piano interludes.

Mr. Ward's second concert has been arranged for Tuesday, 1st April, when it is hoped to revive "In a Persian Garden" and possibly to repeat "The Daisy Chain."

Appended is the programme:—

- PART FIRST.
1. Pianoforte Duet... "Waltz" Scharwenka.
Messrs. GALLUZZI and WARD.
 2. Song..... "Bid me to Love"..... Barnard.
(With Violin Obligato, played by Mrs. Ough.)
MR. GEO. P. LAMMERT.
 3. Song..... "Love the Pedlar" German.
MRS. BADELEY.
 4. Allegretto and (from Sonata for)
Allegro, Violin and) Grieg.
Molto Vivace... Pianoforte.....)
MRS. OUGH and MR. A. G. WARD.
 5. Song..... "A Wayside Posy" Watson.
MRS. MUDIE.
 6. Songs... (a) "There were no Stars" ... Ward.
(b) "The Countryman"..... Ward.
MR. C. H. P. HAY.
 7. Pianoforte ("Polonaise in C sharp) Chopin.
Solo..... { minor".....)
MR. A. G. WARD.
 8. Aria "Pleurez! Mes Yeux" ("Le Cid") Massenet.
MRS. D. E. BROWN.
 9. Song..... "Ecstasy" Beach.
MRS. BADELEY.
 10. Violin Solos (a) "Salut d'amour" Elgar.
(c) "Scherzo"..... Goens.
MRS. OUGH.
 11. Song { "When Crocuses upon } Somerville
the Green".....)
MRS. MUDIE.
- Interval of 10 minutes.
- PART SECOND.
- Song Cycle... "The Daisy Chain" Liza Lehmann.
MRS. D. E. BROWN, MISS RAMSAY, MR. GEO. P.
LAMMERT, and MR. C. H. P. HAY.

Telegraphic advice has been received from the Shanghai Race Club to the effect that at their forthcoming Spring Race Meeting three races are open to Hongkong subscription water griffins of any season, entries for which will close in Shanghai on the 5th April next.

ENTERTAINMENT AT CANTON.

A very enjoyable evening was afforded the residents of Shameen on Saturday, the 8th inst., the Canton Amateur Theatrical Society repeating their successful entertainment, already once rendered about three weeks ago, the programme being the farce *Dearest Mamma*, followed by that well-known musical comedy *A Trial by Jury* as a *pièce de resistance*. The farce was well staged, the parts of "Dearest Mamma" and "Uncle B owser" being especially high up in amateur form. The audience experienced, however, a surprise in the comedietta; several changes in the orchestra were noticeable, and although numerically weaker, the music was a decided improvement on the first production, the quality amply making up for the previous, evidently surplus, quantity. The plaintiff sustained her part most admirably, her voice being at its best and her appearance simply charming; repeated encores and numerous lovely bouquets proved the audience's appreciation. The bridesmaids looked *piquant* in pink, light blue and white, and the jury were excellently got up, one as Dan Leno and two others representing local celebrities evoking much mirth. The judge could not have been better chosen, and the usher might do worse than leave the "muck-and-truck" line for the stage, in spite of his rather Teutonic pronunciation. The defendant's part was taken by Mr. F. H. Bell, of I.M. Customs, whom we have to thank for the entire creation and who has worked very hard to give us what Shameen since 15 years has not been able to boast of, namely, a musical amateur play; as usual, he made his part perfect and was called to the front and heartily cheered at the close of what certainly proved to be one of the most successful and enjoyable entertainments ever given by the C.A.T.S.

SWATOW.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Swatow, 11th March.

MEN-OF-WAR MOVEMENTS.

The U.S.S. *Wilmington*, which arrived here from Shanghai about two weeks ago, is leaving for Amoy this afternoon. H.I.G.M.S. *Tiger* called in here on Saturday last from Hongkong and will be departing for the North in a few days. The *Chuantian*, the Chinese revenue cruiser, is in here making an extensive survey of the harbour.

A DANCE.

The bachelor members of the Kialat Club gave a ball; the "Wilmington dance," in their Club rooms on the 7th instant, and it was attended by some of the officers of the U.S.S. *Wilmington*.

A CONCERT.

The Minstrel and Variety Company of U.S.S. *Wilmington* gave an entertainment, consisting of songs, plays and boxing display, in the Kialat Club. It was a complete success.

AN "AT HOME."

The captain and officers of the *Wilmington* held a reception on board their ship yesterday, to which the leaders of the community were invited.

SAD LOSS.

On the receipt of the sad news of the death of the Admiral of the U.S. Asiatic fleet, the men-of-war in port half-masted their ensigns out of respect to the departed.

Mr. Alec Marsh, who has been called home from Shanghai by the illness of his talented wife, Miss Alice Esty, is to give a farewell concert on the 15th instant, at which he will be assisted by many leading Shanghai amateurs.

A Peking telegram to the *Mainichi*, dated the 1st inst., announces that owing to the opposition of the Chinese Government to granting Russia privileges to work mines in Manchuria, the negotiations on the Manchuria Convention have fallen through. The Russian Government according to the telegram, has intimated to the Chinese Government that Russia will carry out her plans despite the opposition of Great Britain and Japan. The *Kobe Chronicle* says:—We very much doubt the authenticity of the latter statement. Russian diplomats do not work in that way.

SAIGON.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Saigon, 7th March.

M. DOUMER'S APPROACHING DEPARTURE.

M. Doumer, the Governor-General of Indo-China, has definitely decided to return to France, and sails by the *Sydney* on the 14th inst. As in Tonkin, he desires to mark his departure by a series of festivals, but people in Saigon do not quite see the reason for these celebrations. However, the arrangements connected therewith seem to be well advanced, notwithstanding public apathy, and to-day M. Doumer is to officiate at the inauguration of a bridge to be built across the river, joining the land of the Messageries Company to the town proper. The bridge is to be a low-level one, and will be so constructed as to permit of its being opened and closed at certain hours during the day. Its lowness, however, is sure to prove an impediment to the large junks coming down the river from Cholon. Following this function, M. Doumer, who previously stated his desire to do so, is to lay the foundation-stone of the new quays that are to line the river. A gala at the theatre marks the close of a busy day. On Saturday, the 8th inst., the retiring Governor-General opens the iron bridge spanning the Saigon River at Binh Loi, the completion of which marks an important step in the construction of the railway to Biehoa and thence along the coast to Tonkin. In the evening he attends a ball given in his honour by the Philharmonic Society. On Sunday, the 9th inst., M. Doumer is to be present at the races, and, resuming his activities on Monday, he unveils a fine marble statue of the Bishop, Monseigneur Pigneau de Behaine, which has been erected opposite the Cathedral. The Bishop, who is shown standing in a protecting attitude over the young son of the Emperor Gia Lang, was a great favourite at the old Annamite Court. On Wednesday His Excellency attends a ball to be given by the Officers' Club.

So far, no successor to M. Doumer has been appointed, and he leaves the Colony burdened with the heavy loans contracted during his term of office, whilst his schemes for railway construction are in a state that is far from satisfactory.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

HIGHER EDUCATION FOR CHINESE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"
Hongkong, 8th March.

SIR,—My attention has been called to the correspondence appearing in the *Government Gazette* anent the provision of education for the children of better class Chinese. On perusing the letter addressed to the Government by Dr. Ho Kai and seven others, I was struck by the fact that it plainly advocates class distinctions which I for one, and I believe many other persons in the Colony also, both Chinese and European, believe should not be allowed to exist in any purely Government institution. It stands to reason that the establishment of any such school as that proposed by Dr. Ho Kai and his following will have to be paid for out of public funds. That is to say, everybody, from the poorest coolie to the richest taipan, will be contributing to the support of such a school and it would therefore be most unfair for any such institution to be reserved for one particular class at the expense of all. If the disadvantages pointed out by Dr. Ho Kai and his friends really exist, then, I contend that the remedy is in their own hands. They are not forced to send their children to these Government Board Schools, as they term them, as are the poorer Chinese, for they can afford to pay higher fees, which the people whose children they object to their own mixing with cannot. In my opinion the educational facilities provided by Government should be of as high a standard as possible, and, as they are paid for by all, so should they be freely open to all without any class distinction whatever. The class of school asked for by Dr. Ho Kai and others I regard

as being somewhat in the nature of a luxury provided for one special class or section of the community and being such it should be paid for by them, for they alone would reap the benefit.

Again, these gentlemen ask for a school for the education of the upper classes of the Chinese and want it reserved especially for them. Why should they make such a request? Such schools are not provided by the Government in England, or for the matter of that in any other country. All public institutions of the kind are open to all classes, no matter what their social position may be, so long as they can pay the necessary fees. The schools reserved for the children of the upper classes are supported by the upper classes themselves, and the rest of the community are not asked to contribute to them in any way whatsoever. They are, in fact, luxuries and as such are paid for by those who make use of them. Therefore I contend that if those of the upper-class Chinese of Hongkong require a school reserved exclusively for their children, then they, and they alone, should supply the necessary funds, which they can well afford to do, without asking for the expenditure of public money, contributed by all, for the benefit of one particular section of community.

The gentlemen in question also point out that in the event of their having to send their children to England or the United States at a most impressionable age they find themselves on their return unable to resume their proper position in the family; but a little further on argue that the establishment of the school they ask for will cause them to assimilate English sympathies and ideas and give them more open minds and public spirit. Does it not seem as if these two statements were somewhat contradictory and that the Anglicising of the children would cause just that difficulty with regard to family life of which complaint is made?—Yours, etc.

ANTI-HUMBUG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 13th March.

SIR.—After careful perusal of the petition by Dr. Ho Kai and others for a special English school for the children of the Chinese upper classes, the Governor's despatch to the Secretary of State relating thereto, and the correspondence published in the papers, I must add my vote against the proposal. The petitioners are clearly advocating class distinctions, and, such being the case, no wonder they command no public sympathy. In no schools maintained at public expense should such distinctions be allowed to exist. A correspondent signing himself "Fairplay" in the *Telegraph* last night says that since the Government has made the school given by Mr. Ho Tung one wherein class distinctions are to be observed, Dr. Ho Kai and his friends are justified in making their present demands. This statement is incorrect and calculated to mislead. If "Fairplay" will take the trouble to look up the last number but one of the *Gazette* and study the subject more thoroughly he will no doubt admit that what Dr. Ho Kai and the seven others ask for is not exactly a *quid pro quo*, as alleged. The "Ho Tung School" is reserved for children of European residents of the Colony and open to all classes, rich and poor alike, whereas the proposed school for Chinese is intended for one particular section of the community, exclusively, viz., the wealthy class. Enclosing my card,—Yours, etc.

PERLE ET CIE

VICTORIA GAP TERMINUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 10th March.

SIR,—I have been waiting for some days to see whether any reply would be given to the letters of your correspondents, and to your own editorial remarks on this question, in which I know a great interest is felt, not alone by Peak residents.

I quite agree with all that has been written, and I hope that the Company will lose no time, now the weather is fine, in getting the station covered in. The covered-in passage is also much exposed, but this can readily be rectified by filling in the arches with glass. Compared with the roofing of the station, however, this is

a minor matter. Passengers who have to wait in the station cannot even sit down in summer, for the seats are always wet and the pavement is one pool of water. Sometimes all the chairs are engaged, and the plight of the traveller is then very disagreeable, for he has to stand about the sloppy station for some time getting wet and irritable when, if the station were roofed in properly, he might endure the delay with philosophy.—Yours, etc.,

MOUNT KELLET.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
11th March.

SIR,—“Mount Kellett” and your other correspondents, with all due deference, must be the veriest griffins, or they would know that no number of anonymous letters, though never so loaded with legitimate and soberly stated grievance, would receive even the scantest consideration at the hands of the autocratic General Managers of the Peak Tramway. Their unalterable policy is to sit tight in their armour-plated indifference, and turn a deaf ear to all complaints. It is possibly as well for a long-suffering public that the Company's hands are tied by Ordinance in the matter of fares. Their uncompromising attitude over the erection of a chair shelter will be fresh in the memory of most of your readers. Fortunately the P.W.D. stepped manfully into the breach, and saved the Company's “face.” They can, however, scarcely expect the Government to roof in and otherwise protect their upper terminus from the inclemency of the elements. Still there is not the slightest shade of a shadow of a doubt, that if some arrangement could be effected, whereby the Peak Hotel proprietor would do so for them, they would not refuse the same. The wonder is that the shareholders themselves don't move to put a stop to a stinginess on the part of the General Managers of the Peak Tramway that threatens to become a byword.—Yours, etc.,

HILLSIDE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 13th March.

SIR,—Although I am not quite such a griffin as your correspondent “Hillside” imagines, I cannot believe that the Directors and General Managers of the Peak Tramway are quite so mean or quite so deaf to the appeals and indifferent to the comfort of passengers as he makes out. I much prefer to think that now they have, through the consistent and generous support of the public, earned large profits and received good dividends for some years, they are ready to do what is practicable for the safety and good health of the passengers by this little line. It must be admitted that the Peak residents have waited patiently for a much and long needed improvement in the Peak Terminus, and now have a right to expect some consideration. But until I see that the Company intend to do nothing, I am prepared to suspend judgment. I think it will be time to denounce the management when they have shown that they do not intend to move in the matter. But they might at any rate give the public some assurance as to their intentions.—Yours, etc.,

MOUNT KELLETT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 13th March.

SIR,—“Hillside” is quite right when he expresses doubts as to the efficacy of anonymous letters containing cheap cynisms and still cheaper witticisms. What self-respecting Company (whether it be armour-plated or not) would take notice of such puerile pin pricks? Although a griffin myself, I should imagine a deputation of ticket-holders or a properly organised memorial to the General Managers would be more likely to draw from them the coveted and certainly very necessary shelter.—Yours, etc.,

SEASON TICKET.

DISOBEDIENT COOLIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
11th March.

SIR,—The other day you reported in your paper the prosecution by Dr. Canton, of H.M.S. *Thetis*, of his boy for disobeying orders. This

morning you report the prosecution by Mrs. Bell Irving of her washerman for breach of contract. In neither case is the defaulting servant's name—not to speak of a description—given. The lady and gentleman in question deserve the hearty thanks of all Hongkong residents for their action, action no doubt taken at very great personal inconvenience. I trust, sir, that you will in future aid by detailing as fully as possible the name and all obtainable particulars of servants convicted of misdemeanours.—Yours, etc.,

J. R.

SIR THOMAS JACKSON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
13th March.

SIR,—On the eve of the departure for home for retirement of this Napoleon of the Banking world of the Far East it would be a graceful act on the part of the various Parsee and other Indian firms and brokers to arrange to entertain him at a grand banquet by way of showing their high sense of regard and esteem for him and appreciation of his sterling qualities of head and heart, which are too well known to require enumeration.—Yours, etc.,

HONOUR TO WHOM
HONOUR IS DUE.

HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LD.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in this Company's Hotel on the 11th inst. Mr. R. C. Wilcox (chairman) presided, and the others present were Messrs E. Osborne, W. Parfitt (directors), H. C. Wilcox, P. C. Potts, G. C. Anderson, M. S. Northcote, C. N. Young, W. Davis, J. E. Gomes, A. Denison, Ho Fook, Lo Cheung Shiu, Ho Kum Tong, and C. Mooney (secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, following our usual custom, I will, with your permission, take the report and accounts, which have been in your hands for some time, as read. I think you will agree with me that the result of the working of the past half-year was very satisfactory. The profit netted showed an increase over that of the corresponding six months of 1900 of \$13,401.80, or about 18 per cent. That means substantial progress, which is the more notable inasmuch as the profit for the final half-year of 1900 was a record result. The improvement has, moreover, been obtained in spite of a general and unavoidable increase in expenditure, caused by the steady decline in exchange, an increase in the cost of food locally, and the necessity of paying higher wages. We are, as you will note, compelled to devote considerable sums to writing off, as depreciation through wear and tear is now very great in the Hotel. Of course, the larger our business grows the greater necessarily becomes the wear and tear. We have also felt it prudent to commence writing down the value of our steam-launch, for, though a comparatively new craft, she is subjected to hard, constant usage. The dividend proposed is large, larger, as a matter of fact, than your directors altogether like to pay; but as they know the feeling of the shareholders on the subject, they have thought it well to recommend the amount, believing that it can be maintained unless some unforeseen and unexpected check to our present prosperity should arise. With regard to the utilisation of the Praya Reclamation, the matter is still receiving the attention of the directors, certain details and proposals in connection with it having yet to be considered. Having once ascertained the views of the shareholders, it is now only necessary for the directors to do what is obviously best from a financial standpoint for the Company. In reference to the prospects for the current half-year, I am glad to say that so far we have done very well, better indeed than we expected, for it was believed that there would be a decrease this season in the numbers of travellers passing through when compared with the last two or three years, and the profits are fully up to those of the previous corresponding six months. These are all the points occurring to me now, but I shall be glad to give any further information desired by shareholders present.

There were no questions, and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. DAVIS—I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts. Our affairs seem to be in a very satisfactory condition, and there appears to be every prospect of their continuing so. The directors are to be thanked, I think, for the satisfactory state of our affairs are in.

The motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. P. A. POTTS proposed the re-election of the retiring director, Mr. W. Parfitt.

This was seconded by Mr. LO CHEUNG SHIU, and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. DENISON, seconded by Mr. HO KUM TONG, the appointment as auditor of Mr. H. U. Jeffries was confirmed, and he and Mr. W. H. Potts were re-elected auditors for the ensuing year.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business of the meeting, gentlemen, and I beg to thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow morning at ten o'clock, and can be had on application to the secretary.

THE WANCHAI WAREHOUSE
AND STORAGE CO., LD.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in this Company, in liquidation, was held at the offices, 5, Queen's Road Central, at 3 p.m. on the 10th inst. Mr. F. G. Schröter presided, and the others present were Messrs J. Orange, A. G. Morris, E. Osborne (consulting committee), H. Oldenbury, O. von der Heyder, E. B. Shepherd, Mr. S. Northcote, and H. Brodersen (secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—The report and final accounts of the Company have been in your hands for some days; you will therefore be familiar with the contents, making it unnecessary to read them again. As regards the accounts of the former general managers, I think I need only say a few words about the item of “Charges Account, \$1,022.20.” These expenses were incurred in connection with the sale of the property and consist chiefly of costs for survey and valuations of property and solicitors' fees. Turning to the liquidator's account, I decided to consider the amount of outstanding dividends, \$247.50, appearing in the general managers' statement, as forfeited, and added it to the money paid back to the shareholders. The power to deal with them in this way is given by clause 6, section 13, of the Articles of Association, as all these dividends are unclaimed for more than a year. I tried to find out the persons entitled to receive this money, but I have not been successful. I shall be glad to answer if you have any questions.

There were no questions, and on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. ORANGE, the report and accounts were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN—You will observe that there remains a small credit balance of \$34.26. I would ask you to leave this to me for paying some small expenses which will come after this meeting and for some charitable object.

This was seconded by Mr. MORRIS, and agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—We have then to decide about the disposal of the books, accounts, documents and papers of the Company. According to law these must be kept for another five years, and it seems to me the easiest way for the shareholders if I do this: I would submit the following extraordinary resolution:—“That the books, accounts and papers of the Company and of the Liquidator be kept in the possession of the Liquidator until the 10th March, 1907, and that then such books, accounts, documents and papers be destroyed.”

Mr. VON DER HEYDER seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. NORTHCOTE—I presume, sir, that the old scrip will be returned by shareholders to the office.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes. This is the last time I have to trouble you, gentlemen; I thank you for your attendance.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 10th March.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

SHUN TAI CO., LD. v. THE SHIP "TUNG KONG."
This is a suit in which plaintiffs claim \$3,500 for damages alleged to have been sustained by their vessel *Hung-mow* by colliding with the defendant ship in the West River at the entrance of the Wangmoon Channel on 1st January.

Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law, appeared for the plaintiffs, instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, solicitors; the defendants were represented by Mr. E. H. Sharp, barrister-at-law, instructed by Mr. H. Hursthouse of Messrs. Dennys & Bowley, solicitors.

Evidence having been taken, the case was adjourned.

Thursday, 13th March.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THEIR HONOURS A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE) AND T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

HOWARD AND STEPHENS v. ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

This was a notice of motion for leave to appeal from the decision of Sir John W. Carrington delivered on 1st December, 1900.

Mr. T. Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law, appeared for the appellants, instructed by Mr. M. J. D. Stephens, solicitor.

The petition in the original case stated that the plaintiffs were until quite recently the Crown lessees and the owners and occupiers as tenants in common of Marine Lot No. 184 in the City of Victoria. There were godowns erected on the lot, and the plaintiffs carried on there the business of godown-keepers. From the time the lease was granted in 1884 until about April, 1898, the lot abutted on the north side for a length of 100 feet on the Praya, and was only separated from the sea in the Harbour by the Praya, which at that point was about 50 feet wide. The plaintiffs were able at all times of the day and night and at all states of the tide, to bring cargo-boats to the sea-wall for loading and unloading goods. About the year 1891 the Governor, under the Praya Reclamation Ordinance, 1889, commenced to construct an embankment along the Harbour front, from a point westward of the plaintiffs' lot to a point eastward of it and to construct a sea-wall and to reclaim and fill in the foreshore and bed of the Harbour between the Praya and the new embankment and sea-wall. The result of these operations was that the plaintiffs' lot was converted from a marine lot into an inland lot; it no longer abuts on the Praya or sea road, and no longer has any direct access to the sea, but is separated from it by the old Praya, by a piece of reclaimed land, the property of the Crown, of about 185 feet in width, and by the new Praya and sea-wall, of about 75 feet in width. By the diminution of their business during the construction of the works the plaintiffs suffered a loss of about \$25,000, and by the depreciation in value of their lot they suffered a further loss of about \$50,000. Before the commencement of the works the lot, with the buildings thereon, was of the value of about \$200,000 at the least. After the completion of the works immediately in front of their lot the plaintiffs were unable to obtain more than \$110,000 for the lot and the buildings thereon, and this depreciation was entirely owing to the conversion of the lot from a marine into an inland lot. The relief asked for in the original suit was that the award of the Acting Governor, Major-General Black, of \$15,000 as compensation be set aside and declared null and void. Sir John Carrington gave judgment for the defendant.

Mr. Morgan Phillips stated that he appeared for the appellants in support of the motion. Their Lordships were perfectly well aware of the facts of the case.

The Acting Chief Justice—I think it only

right to point out that both members of Court are to a certain extent biased in this case. I as Acting Attorney-General advised the Government on this point some years ago, and I believe my colleague was Acting Colonial Secretary at the time the award was made. I think it only right to tell you that; and the Chief Justice, Mr. Goodman, is still more biased, I should say, because he was Attorney-General.

Mr. Morgan Phillips—It would be affectation to ignore the fact that your Lordships have an interest in these proceedings. However, I am not afraid at all that there can be any bias in the matter.

The Acting Chief Justice—I hope you shall not be. But I think it only right to tell you that we have been acting in the matter.

Mr. Morgan Phillips—I think my task will be lightened by the fact of your Lordships' acquaintance with the case.

The Acting Chief Justice—I do not know that; I was only there for a short time.

Mr. Morgan Phillips went on to state that he would lay the facts before them without any fear of bias on their Lordships' part. There was an absolute right of appeal against the decision of any judge sitting alone in that Court. But the right had been restricted by the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure. Section 606 stated that no appeal to the Full Court from any decision of the Court shall, except by special leave of the Full Court, be brought up after the expiration of six months, the period to be calculated from the time the decision was pronounced. He did not propose to argue the point as to whether that section was so completely retrospective as to prevent his client the right of appeal in this case, for he thought he would show their Lordships that there were strong grounds why special leave might be granted on this application. Their Lordships well knew that these proceedings were originally brought by his clients in respect of certain works which were done in connection with the Praya Reclamation Ordinance 1889. His client were owners of a certain lot affected by the Reclamation. They did not concur with the proposals of the Ordinance, but eventually an award was made to them in the way of compensation by the then Acting Governor, General Black. The award was a sum of \$15,000, whereas his clients claimed a sum of upwards of \$170,000. They at once took proceedings to have that award set aside, and the action in which that appeal was now being made and in which the Attorney-General was ostensibly the defendant came before Sir John Carrington in the end of 1900. His judgment was delivered on 1st December of that year. It was in favour of the defendant, and the claim by the plaintiffs to set aside the award was refused by him. It was from that judgment that his clients now desired leave to appeal. An affidavit had been filed in support of the petition, which he thought it desirable now to lay before them. This was the affidavit of Thomas Howard, one of the plaintiffs. In it he stated that after judgment had been delivered by Sir John Carrington in favour of the defendant, he consulted the late Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C., counsel for the plaintiffs, as to the advisability of appealing therefrom, but Mr. Francis advised him that instead of appealing the plaintiffs should present a petition of right to Her late Majesty Queen Victoria. Acting upon such advice, he instructed Mr. Francis to prepare such petition, which the latter accordingly did, the same being completed on the 27th August, 1901. During the interval between the date of the judgment and the date the petition was completed, he frequently urged Mr. Francis to complete the petition. The petition was forwarded by his solicitors to their London agents on 14th September, 1901, for presentation to His Majesty the King in Council. On or about the 20th January, 1902, his solicitors sent him a letter which they had received from their agents, enclosing copy of a letter from Mr. Charles S. Murdoch, C.B., one of the officials in the office of the Secretary of State for Home Affairs, informing them that His Majesty was advised that the proper course to adopt was for the petitioners to apply to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council for leave to appeal from the decision of the Court of Hong Kong, if, in the opinion of the petitioners' legal advisers, such leave was necessary and the case was one proper for appeal, and that the

procedure was irregular and out of order. Since the receipt of that letter, he had been in communication with the Colonial Secretary of Hong Kong with a view to a settlement of the matters in question in that action, but it had been found impossible to come to any settlement, and a further delay of one month had been occasioned by such communications. The plaintiffs would have instituted an appeal from the decision of Sir John Carrington without any delay if it had not been for the advice given to them by Mr. Francis. Their Lordships, continued Mr. Morgan Phillips, would see that no time had been lost.

The Acting Chief Justice—What about the nine months from the decision till the time of the petition.

Mr. Morgan Phillips—Well, it was stated that Mr. Francis was during that time getting the petition all ready.

The Acting Chief Justice—But nine months is a long time to prepare a petition.

Mr. Morgan Phillips replied that their Lordships would see that the appellant did urge Mr. Francis to complete the petition as quickly as possible. Mr. Francis was of course a very busy man. Anyhow it was evident that his clients had not slept upon their supposed rights in this matter. They had endeavoured from first to last to urge them without delay. Their Lordships would note that the Code came into operation on 1st July, 1901, the Code which restricted the absolute right of appeal, so that during that time they were pursuing what they were advised was the right process to enable them to appeal from that decision, but unfortunately it appeared that that was not the proper procedure, and only on 20th January of this year were they made aware of that fact. So soon as that came to their knowledge, they placed themselves in communication with the Colonial Government here with a view to settlement. No settlement was arrived at and at once they commenced proceeding in that Court with a view to appealing regularly against the decision of Sir John Carrington. Under these circumstances, it seemed to him there had been no undue delay by his clients, and he thought that with those facts before them their Lordships would come to the conclusion that that was a case in which special leave might be given under the provisions of Section 606.

The Acting Chief Justice—Have you got any case where, had you acted upon advice which afterwards turned out to be bad, you were able to get special leave.

Mr. Morgan Phillips—No; I do not know of one.

The Acting Chief Justice—you are simply going upon the facts?

Mr. Morgan Phillips—Yes; I think the facts are sufficiently strong to enable me to submit that special leave might be granted. In July, 1901, when this Code came into operation my clients were then actively proceeding with such steps as they were advised were necessary to enable them to appeal against the case.

The Acting Puisne Judge—You say that under the old Code there is no time limit?

Mr. Morgan Phillips—I believe I am correct in stating that fact. The only section referring to the right of appeal is Section 18 of the Supreme Court Ordinance of 1893. In conclusion he urged, for the reasons shown, that the Court make an order in the terms asked for.

The Acting Chief Justice—It is not our intention to make an absolute order at present. What we propose to do is to make an order calling upon the other side to show cause why the appeal should not be allowed. The only question is about the date. You understand, of course, the difficulty of bringing this matter before the Court as at present constituted.

After consultation, an adjournment was made till Monday, 24th instant, at 10.30 a.m.

A census has just been taken of the population of Cochin-China. Apart from the town of Saigon and a few cantons of Moï, the total figure is 2,909,776. The population of Saigon is 47,577, of whom 5,475 are French and 300 foreigners. These figures show a notable increase. The *Almanach de Gotha* for 1902 gives the population of Cochin-China as 2,262,000, and that of Saigon as 37,565.

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. v. BATTLESHIPS' XI.

This match on the 8th inst. ended in a victory for the Club on the first innings, owing entirely to Dixon's 62, the other members of the victorious team performing very indifferently. In their second innings the Battleships' team knocked up some runs, the Club apparently being satisfied with their victory on the first venture. Score and analysis:—

H.K.C.C.	
Capt. Krickenbeck, b McKinley	25
Lt. France-Hayhurst, c Tweedie, b Rogers	2
Major Wynne, b McKinley	13
W. Dixon, b Campbell	62
Lt. Venables, c and b McKinley	4
J. Hooper, lbw, b McKinley	10
J. Brown, c Rogers, b Campbell	0
Major Buttanshaw, b Campbell	7
Lt. Edmundson, b McKinley	0
P. A. Cox, not out	5
Onslow, b McKinley	0
Extras	1

Total 129

BATTLESHIPS' XI.—1st INNINGS.

Rev. Moore, c F. Hayhurst, b Dixon	18
Mid. Digby, c Wynne, b F. Hayhurst	10
Mid. Campbell, c Buttanshaw, b F. Hayhurst	15
Mid. Haycock, b F. Hayhurst	0
Lieut. Tweedie, b F. Hayhurst	0
Mr. Broadbent, b F. Hayhurst	16
Surg. Huskinson, c Venables, b Dixon	17
Mr. McKinley, c Dixon, b F. Hayhurst	1
Lt. Boyle, b F. Hayhurst	0
Mid. Hargreaves, not out	6
Rogers, b Dixon	0
Extras	4

Total 87

2ND INNINGS.

Mid. Digby, c and b France-Hayhurst	0
Rev. Moore, c Venables, b Buttanshaw	51
Mr. McKinley, c Dixon, b France-Hayhurst	11
Mid. Campbell, c France-Hayhurst, b Dixon	1
Mid. Hargreaves, b Dixon	31
Surg. Huskinson, c Wynne, b Buttanshaw	26
Lt. Tweedie, b F. Hayhurst	6
Mid. Haycock, st Venables, b Krickenbeck	25
Lt. Boyle, st Venables, b F. Hayhurst	19
Mr. Broadbent, not out	0
Rogers, c Buttanshaw, b Hayhurst	17
Extras	17

Total 188

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

H.K.C.C.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Rogers	6	—	45	1
McKinley	11	2	42	6
Broadbent	1	—	14	—
Campbell	5	—	28	3

BATTLESHIPS.

First Innings				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
France-Hayhurst	14	—	57	7
Dixon	13.5	7	26	3

Second Innings

	O.	M.	R.	W.
France-Hayhurst	19.5	3	67	5
Dixon	14	2	42	2
Krickenbeck	7	—	24	1
Buttanshaw	11	—	33	2

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND MONTHLY MEDAL FOR MARCH.

In spite of want of rain, the course was in very fair order and many creditable scores were handed in. The winner of the Pool returned three excellent cards and fully deserves a substantial reduction of handicap. The Captain of the Club was successful in qualifying for his own prize with a good score, which would have been considerably better but for one or two mistakes.

This completes the series of monthly competitions for Mr. Palmer's Cup, to secure final possession of which the winners of the year, nine in number, will have to do battle at an early date.

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Mr. C. Palmer	91	—	9	82
Mr. C. M. G. Burnie	84	—	1	83
Lieut. G. S. Palmer	100	—	15	85
Mr. H. S. Sweeting	103	—	18	85
Dr. W. B. Drew, R.N.	101	—	15	86
Mr. C. H. P. Hay	104	—	8	86
Mr. T. S. Forrest	85	+	2	87
Mr. J. H. T. McMurtrie	85	+	2	87
Commr. James, R.N.	98	—	8	90
Dr. Raymond, R.N.	106	—	15	91

17 entries.

POOL.

Dr. J. R. Raymond, R.N.	89	—	15	74
Mr. C. H. P. Hay	99	—	18	81
Mr. C. Palmer	91	—	9	82
Mr. C. M. G. Burnie	84	—	1	83
Lieut. G. S. Palmer	98	—	15	83
Mr. H. S. Sweeting	103	—	18	85
Dr. W. B. Drew, R.N.	101	—	15	86
Mr. T. S. Forrest	85	+	2	87
Mr. J. H. T. McMurtrie	85	+	2	87
Commr. H. J. Davison, R.N.	100	—	13	87
Commr. James, R.N.	98	—	8	90

17 entries.

Members are reminded that the annual general meeting will take place at 5 p.m. on the 20th inst., at the Hongkong Club.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

MACHINE GUN CO.'S CHALLENGE SHIELD COMPETITION.

The annual competition for the Challenge Shield between the Machine Gun Companies of the Volunteer Corps, which was held on the Tai Hang Rifle Range on Saturday, 8th inst., resulted in a win for "C" Company, the previous holders of the trophy, who beat "B" Company by 28 points and "A" Company by 72 points. Marks were awarded as follows:—

I—TIME TAKEN TO COME INTO ACTION AND COMPLETE COMPETITION.

"A" Co.	"B" Co.	"C" Co.
12mins.	13mins.	11½mins.

II—MARKS FOR TIME.

"A" Co.	"B" Co.	"C" Co.
48	44	50

III—MARKS FOR DRILL AND FIRE DISCIPLINE.

"A" Co.	"B" Co.	"C" Co.
44	38	46

IV—HITS.

"A" Co.	"B" Co.	"C" Co.
92	152	168

V—MARKS FOR HITS.

"A" Co.	"B" Co.	"C" Co.
82	136	151

TOTALS FOR II, III, AND V.

"A" Co.	"B" Co.	"C" Co.
174	218	246

HONGKONG.

The Hon. A. M. Thomson, Colonial Treasurer, returned to the Colony on 9th inst. by the s.s. *China*.

Mr. J. H. Bacon is recognised as Vice and Deputy Consul-General in Hongkong for the United States of America.

A portion of the wall between the tenements Nos. 2 and 4, Eastern Street collapsed on the 11th inst., and two Chinese were injured by the falling debris. Both were removed to hospital.

Lieut. W. Nicholson, H.K.V.C., has been granted twelve months' leave of absence; and Lieut. T. Skinner, H.K.V.C., leave of absence from the 25th February to the 15th March.

A cablegram was received in Hongkong on the 12th inst. stating that owing to the late arrival at Shanghai of the steamer *Loongmoon* they will not be able to reach this port in time to open this evening as originally was intended. Their season will commence on Monday.

The twin-screw steam dredger *Canton River*, as she now lies in Hunghom Bay off the premises of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., will be offered for sale by public auction at half-past two o'clock this afternoon in Messrs. Hughes & Hough's sales rooms, No. 20, Des Vœux Road.

Dr. Bateson Wright, Headmaster of Queen's College and local Hon. Sec. of the Oxford Local Examinations, informs us that 81 candidates have entered for the Oxford Local Examination next July—16 Senior, of whom two are girls, 40 Junior, and 25 Preliminary, of whom one is a girl.

By a fire which broke out in a carpenter's shop at Hunghom Docks on the 8th inst. damage was done to the extent of about \$2,000. The loss is partly covered by insurance. The fire was discovered by Sergeant Gordon, Hunghom, who gave the alarm and received the prompt assistance of some of the European employees of the Dock Company, under Mr. S. Wilson, in subduing the outbreak.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week included 239 non-Chinese and 129 Chinese to the former and 52 non-Chinese and 2,845 Chinese to the latter institution.

The large numbers of people whom the band performances attract to the Recreation Ground every Wednesday are the best thanks His Excellency the Acting Governor could desire for his institution of this pleasant form of public amusement. On the 12th inst. a numerous crowd assembled to listen to the excellent music of the 2nd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, whose selections were greeted with frequent applause by their audience.

The following returns of the average amount of banknotes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during February, are certified by the managers of the respective banks:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	3,198,605	1,700,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	12,462,306	5,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited	446,194	150,000
Total	\$16,107,105	\$6,850,000

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1901-2	1900-1
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	—	—
Amoy and Formosa	—	—
Foochow	12,761,212	11,299,703
Canton	—	—
Total	12,761,212	11,299,703

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1901-2	1900-01
Shanghai	—	—
Amoy and Formosa	—	—
Foochow	6,643,262	11,855,217
Total	6,643,262	11,855,217

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1	1899-00
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	—	—
Kobe	—	—
Hiogo	12,462,754	14,044,235
Total	12,462,754	14,044,235

SILK.

CANTON, 1st March.—Re-reels.—In spite of a good demand for this class of silk, only a few transactions took place, owing to the extreme scarcity of stock. A lot of ten bales No. 1 was bought at \$635 together with ten bales No. 2 at \$620. Also a settlement of No. 3 is reported at \$600. Filatures.—The activity ruling on our market before the holidays has fully continued since the re-opening, about 900 bales having been bought for Europe. As was to be foreseen in view of the paucity of stock, prices have steadily advanced, and holders now ask a further rise of \$10 to \$20 for the small stock they have left on hand. Waste.—Steam Waste has remained in very active enquiry at daily advancing prices. Sales have been made in Extra Selected up to \$115 for opened and \$118 for unopened. Dealers have very little stock on hand and there is every probability of the season closing with very short supply.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 14th March.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 14th March.—The tone of the market has improved a little and the prices are going upward. Quotations are:—
Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.45 to \$8.50 pcl.
do. " 2, White.....7.55 to 7.60 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown.....6.05 to 6.10 "
do. " 2, Brown.....5.90 to 5.95 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....8.40 to 8.45 "
do. " 1, White.....7.45 to 7.50 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown.....6.00 to 6.05 "
do. " 2, Brown.....5.80 to 5.85 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....13.05 to 13.10 "
Shekloong ".....10.15 to 10.20 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 14th March.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.70 to 2.75
" Round, Good quality	3.80 to 3.85
" Long	4.05 to 4.10
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.90 to 2.95
" Garden, " No. 1	3.20 to 3.25
" White.....	3.80 to 3.85
" Fine Cargo	4.10 to 4.15

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 14th March.—Bengal. Dealers have been carrying on a hand to mouth business and are not disposed to operate on a larger scale in view of the heavy stock on hand. We close Patna \$907 and New Benares \$915 nominal.

Malwa.—Old drug changed hands to a fair extent at the following rates:—

Two Years'	at \$940
Three "	950
Older	960/70

Persian.—There is no change to report.

Stock.	
Patna	3,054½
Benares	332
Malwa	367
Persian	3,345½

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 14th March.—Extremely dull market, only a small business of very superior grade has been booked. Stock, about 9,000 bales.

Bombay,	20.00 to 21.50 piculs
Bengal (New), Rangoon,	21.50 to 22.50 "
and Dacca,	"
Shanghai and Japanese,	28.00 to 29.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo,	28.00 to 29.00 "
Sale: 225 bales.	

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 28th February:—Nothing of interest has occurred during the past fortnight; the market has been dull throughout and particularly so during the last week, with only a trifling demand for special chops to meet immediate country orders. Despite a falling and uncertain exchange, holders are anxious sellers, and would willingly meet the market, but for anything outside special requirements dealers will not offer at any price. Values during the interval have suffered some change and may be quoted fully a dollar lower on previous quotations. Latest Bombay telegrams make that market steady on a basis of 5½ annas for China No. 20s.

Very little or insufficient rain has fallen in the interior to assist the farmers in planting new rice, and with the recent appearance of cholera in and around Canton, the prospects of a brisk Spring trade are very remote.

Local Manufacture:—The local Mill continues to run full time to meet previous forward contracts; no spot cargo is available, but we hear of a sale of about 250 bales No. 10s., at \$92, June-July delivery.

Japanese Yarn:—The recent rise in exchange renders any business in this thread quite unpracticable.

Raw Cotton:—The market for Indian staple in the country has been very dull and business continues to drag. Exporters to Japan are still in large evidence, and what with heavy direct shipments from Bombay during the last month, mostly on consignment account, the markets there are now being inundated. Sales of 117 bales Super-fine Machine Ginned Bengal at from \$23½ to \$22½ are reported as the only business during the interval, leaving a very heavy stock of nearly 10,500 bales on the market. China descriptions are quiet but steady with little or no business to report.

Quotations are Indian \$17 to \$24 and China \$27 to \$29.

Exchange on India, after touching Rs. 136½ and receding again to Rs. 133½, close to-day at Rs. 134 for T/T and Rs. 134½ for Post. On Shanghai 73½ and on Yokohama 13 per cent. premium.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai for the fortnight ended 8th instant, viz:—

Indian:—Total sales 5,480 bales, including 3,140 bales No. 10s., 60 bales No. 12s., 200 bales No. 14s., 575 bales No. 16s., and 1,405 bales No. 20s., prices remaining with little alteration as those last given and market closing steady. Unsold stock was estimated at about 30,000 bales.

Japanese:—A fair business at steady prices, some 1,500 bales changing hands on the basis of 1½s. 85 to 90 for No. 16s., and Tls. 87½ to 92, for No. 20s., market closing firm.

Local:—Good enquiry at firmer rates, sales amounting to about 1,000 bales No. 16s., at Tls. 85½ and 1,000 bales No. 14s., at from Tls. 82½ to Tls. 84, market closing strong.

COALS.

HONGKONG, 14th March.—The market has continued very quiet.

Cardiff.....	\$18.50 to 19.00, ship, nominal
Australian \$11.00 nominal	
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 to 12.50 ex godown nominal
Miiki Lump.....	\$10.00 ex ship, nominal
Moji Lump	\$7.00 to \$9.50 ex ship, quiet
Hongay double	10.50 ex godown
Hongay Lump.....	8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust	6.00 "
Briquettes	16.00 "

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 14th March.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 50 bales No. 6 at \$78, 50 bales No. 8 at \$85, 1,350 bales No. 10 at \$84 to \$93, 950 bales No. 12 at \$92.50 to \$96.50, 500 bales No. 16 at \$100 to \$107, 1,150 bales No. 20 at \$103.50 to \$110.50. White Shirtings: 20 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.20.

METAL—Quicksilver: 150 flasks at \$173 to arrive.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	per bale \$78.00 to \$118.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	per piece 2.10 to 2.20
7 lbs.	2.25 to 2.50
8.4 lbs.	2.90 to 3.55
9 to 10 lbs.	3.70 to 4.65
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.40 to 2.70
58 to 60 "	3.15 to 4.10
64 to 66 "	4.20 to 5.00
Fine.....	5.20 to 7.40
Book-folds	4.30 to 6.50
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.73 to 1.25
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.70 to 1.90
7lbs. (32 ")	2.00 to 2.30
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.00 to 2.15
7lbs. (32 ")	2.80 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.00 to 3.55
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14 lbs.	4.00 to 6.75

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	1.60 to 3.65
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BROCADES—Dyed

DAMASKS—

Chintzes—Assorted	per yard 0.18 to 0.20
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.24 to 0.50
Velveteens—18 in.	0.22 to 0.30

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.30 to 3.00	per dozen
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WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	per yard 0.65 to 2.00
German	1.25 to 3.00
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.00

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	per piece 6.50 to 8.50
Assorted.....	6.60 to 8.65
Camlets—Assorted.....	12.00 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches }	12.00 to 16.00
Assorted }	
Orleans—Plain	8.00 to 9.50

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	per pair 4.00 to 9.00
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METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	per picul 4.50 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.	4.45 to —
Swedish Bar	4.80 to —
Small Round Rod	4.85 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.,	5.90 to —
Wire, 15/25,	8.50 to —
Old Wire Rope	2.30 to —
Pig Non.....	35.50 to 36.50
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.40 to —
Australian	8.30 to —

METALS—

Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	per picul 39.50 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	39.50 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	39.50 to —
Composition Nails.....	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	39.00 to —
Tin.....	71.00 to —

Tin-Plates	per box 8.25 to —
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Steel ½ to ¾	per cwt. case 5.90 to —
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SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver	per picul 174.50 to —
Window Glass	per box 6.00 to —
Kerosene Oil.....	per 10-gal. case 2.10 to —

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Sanuki Maru (str.).	
FOR LONDON.—Ballarat (str.), Dardanus (str.), Ulysses (str.), Antenor (str.), Bombay (str.), Diomed (str.), Machaon (str.), Sanuki Maru (str.).	
FOR LIVERPOOL.—Tydeus (str.), Calchas (str.).	
FOR MARSEILLES.—Oceanien (str.), Sanuki Maru (str.), Konigsberg (str.), Manchuria (str.).	
FOR BREMEN.—Kiautschou (str.).	
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Konigsberg (str.), Adria (str.), Sazonia (str.), Bamberg (str.), Segoria (str.), Armenia (str.), Manchuria (str.).	
FOR GENOA.—Armenia (str.).	
FOR TRIESTE.—Trieste (str.).	
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Victoria (str.), Iyo Maru (str.), Yangtsze (str.), Kinshui Maru (str.).	
FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of Japan (str.), Tartar (str.).	
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Arab (str.).	
FOR NEW YORK.—Hudson (str.), Aragonia (str.).	
FOR PORTLAND (Or.).—Strathgyle (str.).	
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Taiyuan (str.), Eastern (str.).	
FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—Kagoshima Maru (str.).	
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—Catherine Apcar (str.).	

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 14th March.—Business throughout the past week has continued quiet, and many stocks show a decline on last quotations.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have declined to \$590, at which they close quiet. The London rate remains at £63. Nationals continue in request at \$26.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been booked at \$575 and there are further buyers. China Traders are obtainable at \$55. Yangtszes are wanted at \$134½, and Cantons at \$160 after a small sale at that rate.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are on offer at the reduced rate of \$355, and Chinas can be procured at \$83.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue in strong request at \$38. Indos are a trifle firmer at \$138. China Manilas have dropped to \$35 with probable sellers, and Douglasses to \$40. Star Ferries (old) are obtainable at \$24 and the new issue at \$9.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have weakened to \$134 with sales, and a few more shares are probably obtainable at the rate. Luzons also are lower at \$30 with sellers.

MINING.—Punjoms are obtainable at \$4½, and Jelebus at \$3½. Raubs have sold and are wanted at \$9. Charbonnages continue quiet at \$515.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been booked at \$262½ and close steady. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been taken off the market at \$93, and further lots can be procured at \$94. New Amoy Docks are unchanged at \$30 buyers.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been booked at \$177 and are now weaker at \$176 sellers. Kowloon Lands are quiet at \$30. West Points can probably be obtained at \$59. Hongkong Hotels can be placed at \$172½ ex the final dividend of \$6 per share paid on the 12th instant. Oriente Hotels are weak at \$50 sellers. Humphreys Estates have been booked at \$124.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong Cottons are quiet at \$14. For the Northern Stocks latest quotations to hand are:—Ewos Tls. 42½, Internationals Tls. 25, Laon-kung-mows Tls. 40, and Soy Chees Tl. 150.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Manila Investments have improved slightly and are now quoted at \$35 sellers. Green Island Cements are obtainable at \$21½. A. S. Watsons have sold at \$15. Ropes continue on offer at \$150. Ices have been booked at \$217½ and can now be placed at \$220. Tramways continue in demand at \$330. United Asbestos founders' shares have improved to \$200 buyers. China Providents have been booked and can still be obtained at \$9.30. Watkins have dropped to \$7½ sellers. Powells are wanted at \$8½.

MEMOS.—Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting

on the 20th instant. China and Manila Steamship Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 22nd instant; transfer books close on the 18th instant. China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., and Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meetings on the 27th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	{ \$590. L'don, £63.
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	nominal.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$26, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$26, buyers
Foun. Shares	£1	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$21, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$28, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$20.
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$0.30, sales & sells.
China Sugar	\$100	\$134, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$500, nominal.
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.)	\$50	\$50, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 424.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 25.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150.
Hongkong	\$100	\$14.
Dairy Farm	\$8	\$12, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$41.
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$21, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$45.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$61.
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$330, buyers
Hk. Steam Water beat Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$8.
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$134, sellersex div.
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$220, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$94, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$160, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$262.
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$160, sales & buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$83, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$55, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$355, sellers
North China	£25	Tls. 190, buyers
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$375, sales & buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$134, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$176, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$121, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30.
West Point Building	\$50	\$59, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$30, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$35, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$515.
Jebeu	\$5	\$34, sellers
Queen's Mines, Ltd.	25c.	4 cents.
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	nominal.
Do. B.	\$4	nominal.
Punjom	\$10	\$44.
Do. Preference	\$1	\$14, sellers
Raub	18	\$9, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$64	\$30, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$50, sellers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$81, buyers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$35.
China Mutual Pref.	\$5	nominal.
Do. Ordinary	£7.10	£7.10s, sellers
Do. Bonus	£5	£5, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40, sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$38, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$138, buyers
Sheli Transport and Trading Co.	£1	£2, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	{ \$24, sellers \$9, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$1.
United Abestos	\$4	\$10, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$20, buyers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$20, sellers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$71, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$15, sales & sellers

VERNON SMYTH, & Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 5th March (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). **INSURANCE.**—Marine. Yangtszes are wanted, as well as North Chinas. Other stocks are quiet. Fire stocks have not been dealt in. **SHIPPING.**—Indo-China S. N. Co. No business has been transacted during week, till at close shares were let go at Tls. 99 cash and 99.75 and 100.50 for 31st inst. A July settlement was made at Tls. 107. The market closes with buyers for June and September, but holders are unwilling to part with shares on basis of present cash quotations. **SUGARS** are quiet. **MINING.**—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ltd. Cash sales took place at Tls. 9.30, 9.60 and 9.40, market closing quiet. Settlements were made for 31st inst. at 9.60 and for June at 10.00. **Docks.**—S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co., Ltd.—Shares changed hands at Tls. 265 for cash, market closing steady at this rate. A settlement was made for 31st inst. at 265 and for July at 280. **LANDS.**—Shanghai Gas Co., Ltd. The directors' report and statement of accounts for 1901 have been issued for the meeting of shareholders on the 7th March. The net profit on the year's working was Tls. 82,716.47, equal to 20.68 per cent. on the capital. Including a balance of Tls. 3,736.67 from the old Co., and deducting a dividend of 6 per cent. paid on 25th July, there is a balance of Tls. 62,453.14 at credit of Profit and Loss account, out of which the directors propose to pay a final dividend of 6 per cent. (making 12 per cent. for the year), to write off Tls. 1,623.62 on land and buildings, Tls. 15,340.14 on Plant and Tls. 248.66 on Furniture, to transfer Tls. 15,000 to Renewal and Depreciation account, and carry forward Tls. 6,240.52. Four Mill shares were placed at Tls. 50 and 47.5 and are offering. **TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.**—The Taku Tug and Lighter Co., Ltd., have issued their reports for 1900 and 1901. The net profit in 1900 was \$1,090,256 and a dividend will be paid shareholders of 127 per cent. In 1901 the net profit was \$558,126 and a dividend of 45 per cent. will be declared. After dividend payments have been made the Company's Reserve will stand at Tientsin Tls. 140,000, Depreciation account at Tls. 280,000, Equalisation of Dividend Fund at Tls. 70,000 and a balance of Tls. 124,136 will be carried forward. Shanghai Cargo Boat Co., Ltd. The directors' report and statement of accounts for 1901, with a statement of the liquidation account of the old Co., have been published for the meeting of shareholders convened for 7th current. The net profits amount to Tls. 51,111.65 equal to 12.78 per cent. on the paid-up capital. An interim dividend of 4 per cent. was paid in August. The directors recommend a final dividend of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, and to place Tls. 10,000 to the reserve fund, which will then stand at Tls. 74,752.06, leaving a balance of Tls. 1,111.65 to be carried forward. Co-operative Cargo Boat Co., Ltd. The report of the liquidation of the old Co. and the accounts for 1901 have been issued. The meeting of shareholders is called for the 7th current. The net profits for the year amount to Tls. 22,687.74, which is equal to 11.34 per cent. on the paid-up capital. An interim dividend of 4 per cent. was paid in August. The directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of 6 per cent., which will make 10 per cent. for the year, and leave a balance of Tls. 2,687.74 to be carried forward. Shanghai shares are offering. **MISCELLANEOUS.**—Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd. Cash sales took place at Tls. 330, and shares are offering. Settlements were made for 31st inst., at Tls. 332.50, 335 and 332.50, May 342.50, June 345. Sumatra Tobacco shares are wanted. Central Stores founder shares were placed at \$40; ordinary shares are in request. Weeks and Co. shares fetched \$27.50, and have buyers at this figure. **DEBENTURES.**—Municipal 6 per cent. changed hands at Tls. 105, cum secured interest.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 14th February.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.26
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.30
ON GERMANY.	
On demand	1.84

ON NEW YORK.	
Bank Bills, on demand	43 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	44 1/2
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer	134
Bank, on demand	134 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.	
Telegraphic Transfer	134
Bank, on demand	134 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.	
Bank, at sight	73 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	74
ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand	13 p.c. pm.
ON MANILA.	
On demand	2 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.	
On demand	1 1/2
ON BATAVIA.	
On demand	169 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.	
On demand	1 1/2
ON SAIGON.	On demand 1 1/2
ON BANGKOK.	On demand 60 1/2
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	11.07
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	57.75
BAR SILVER per oz.	25

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 14th March.—The volume of business transacted during the period under review is larger than that of the preceding fortnight, rates being a little higher. From Saigon to this, several steamers have been closed at 15 cents per picul, but at the moment not more than 14 cents is obtainable for medium sized carriers; to one port in the Philippines, 28 and 30 cents per picul for small boats; to one port north coast Java, 24 cents nominal. Three ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul (wet sugar). Newchwang to Canton, 27 1/2 cents per picul. Coal freights are firm. Moji to this, \$1.65; to Singapore, \$2.60 per ton. The following are the settlements:—

Erica—German steamer, 1,227 tons, Manila to New York or Boston 40s. per ton (hemp).
Loch Tay—British steamer, 3,416 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$2.60 per ton.
Rudley—British steamer, 1,934 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$2.60 per ton.
Crown of Arragon—British steamer, 1,474 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.65 per ton.
Savoia—German steamer, 1,622 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.55 per ton.
Kashing—British steamer, 1,158 tons, Newchwang to Canton (20,000 piculs), 27 1/2 cents per picul.
Daphne—German steamer, 1,415 tons, three ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.
Emma Luyken—German steamer, 1,109 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, \$3,500 in full.
Amoy—German steamer, 732 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, \$1,900 in full.
Petrarch—German steamer, 1,252 tons, hence to Saigon and back, 16 cents per picul.
Anigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Taiyu—German steamer, 1,065 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Apenrade—German steamer, 696 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Amara—British steamer, 1,586 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Hansa—German steamer, 1,201 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.
Arnold Luyken—German steamer, 1,006 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.
Else—German steamer, 903 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.
Dr. Hans Jurg Kjaer—Norwegian steamer, 691 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 30 cents per picul.
Nanyang—German steamer, 1,060 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 29 cents per picul.
Independent—German steamer, 1,040 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 28 cents per picul.
Salamanca—British steamer, 883 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 28 cents per picul.
Erica—German steamer, 1,227 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 23 cents per picul.
Kwangsai—British steamer, 1,240 tons, Saigon to Chemulpo, 40 cents per picul.
Chihli—British steamer, 1,158 tons, Saigon to Chemulpo, 40 cents per picul.
Telemachus—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Hoikow to Singapore (passengers) \$7.50 each.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

March—

- 9, Bygdo, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
- 10, Airlie, British str., from Sydney.
- 10, Antonio McLeod, Amr. str., from Iloilo.
- 10, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Marseilles.
- 10, Kweiyang, British str., from Sourabaya.
- 10, Quarta, German str., from Bangkok.
- 10, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
- 10, Taifu, German str., from Saigon.
- 10, Taishan, British str., from Bangkok.
- 10, Tientsin, British str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
- 11, Bjorn, Norwegian str., from Barry.
- 11, Elsa, German str., from Hongay.
- 11, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
- 11, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
- 11, Mara Kolb, German str., from Moji.
- 11, P. C. C. Klao, German str., from Bangkok.
- 11, Sullberg, German str., from Haiphong.
- 11, Telemachus, British str., from Amoy.
- 11, Koyo Maru, Japanese str., from Canton.
- 11, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
- 11, Chunsang, British str., from Canton.
- 11, Decidee, French gunboat, from Canton.
- 12, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 12, Dardanus, British str., from Liverpool.
- 12, Deuteros, German str., from Sourabaya.
- 12, Freiburg, German str., from Hamburg.
- 12, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 12, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., from London.
- 12, Kiangsi, American str., from Chinkiang.
- 12, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
- 12, Trintau, German str., from Bangkok.
- 13, Bendlutha, Amr. str., from Shanghai.
- 13, Evie G. Ray, Amr. bark, from Rajang.
- 13, Flandria, German str., from Canton.
- 13, Hertha, German str., from Singapore.
- 13, Kalgan, British str., from Canton.
- 13, Ness, British str., from Moji.
- 13, Rambler, British s.s., from Aberdeen.
- 13, Then, German str., from Haiphong.
- 13, Trieste, Austrian str., from Yokohama.
- 14, Andalusia, German str., from Moji.
- 14, Ballarat, British str., from Shanghai.
- 14, Bombay, British str., from Shanghai.
- 14, Doris, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
- 14, Kansu, British str., from Swatow.
- 14, Kiukiang, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 14, Mexican Prince, Brit. str., from Singapore.
- 14, Nanshan, British str., from Bangkok.
- 14, Taiyuan, British str., from Manila.

March—

DEPARTURES.

- 10, Erico, German str., for Saigon.
- 10, Ernest Simons, French str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Flandria, German str., for Canton.
- 10, Sydney, French str., for Europe.
- 11, Daybreak, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
- 11, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
- 11, Hoibao, French str., for Hoibow.
- 11, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
- 11, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
- 11, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
- 11, Nestor, British str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Tientsin, British str., for London.
- 11, Friant, French cruiser, for Amoy.
- 12, Anping Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 12, Candia, British str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Dott, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 12, Elsa, German str., for Canton.
- 12, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
- 12, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 12, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
- 12, Koyo Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
- 12, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 12, Onsang, British str., for Singapore.
- 12, Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
- 12, Pitchaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
- 12, Pithonia, German str., for Hamburg.
- 12, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 13, Bendlutha, American str., for Canton.
- 13, Bisagno, Italian str., for Swatow.
- 13, Chunsang, British str., for Swatow.
- 13, Formosa, British str., for Tamsui.
- 13, Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
- 13, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
- 13, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
- 13, Sullberg, German str., for Haiphong.
- 13, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 13, Hermann Menzell, German str., for Chefoo.
- 14, Antonio McLeod, Amr. str., for Iloilo.
- 14, Dardanus, British str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Diamante, British str., for Manila.

- 14, Kamakura Maru, Japanese str., for Japan.
- 14, Taifu, German str., for Saigon.
- 14, Thales, British str., for Swatow.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Hoibao*, from Pakhoi, &c., Mr. and Mrs. King, Mr. and Mrs. Motel and two children.
- Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Mrs. Lewis Holler, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. D'Abbrivilly and child, Capt. H. Wilson, Messrs. L. H. Hargis, J. J. Dunn, R. T. McCormick, F. W. Newton, F. A. Seymour, J. W. McCarty, H. Gansow, R. L. Nesty and Mrs. M. Vanary and daughter.
- Per *Pitsanulok*, from Bangkok, Mr. Held.
- Per *Anping Maru*, from Coast Ports, Mr. Kunderson.
- Per *Sydney*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs. A. Herbert, A. Hanley, W. Mead, C. Taylor, Ed. Woodward, J. Robinson, A. Bartlett, and W. G. Hubbard; from Kobe, Messrs. Cleppeline, Beekmon, Flynn, Siffels and S. Mitutani; from Shanghai, Mrs. H. J. Cooper, Mrs. M. Black, Mrs. and Miss Hanisch, Mrs. Meugens and two children, Messrs. A. Cooper, Manusso, Max Fleischer, Cloarec, J. Binck, A. F. Ribeiro, W. C. Clapp, K. Myetsaki, Y. Takeda and Okonyaba; for Saigon, from Kobe, Mr. A. G. Chevallier; from Shanghai, Mr. Bartolomeo and Mrs. Stefano; for Colombo, from Nagasaki, Mr. Shima Shigoharu; for Calcutta, from Shanghai, Miss L. Heimowitch; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Miss C. Osaka; from Kobe, Mr. A. Bonte; from Shanghai, Mrs. Blum, Mrs. Nicoles, Mrs. J. McNaughton, Rev. G. Owen, Capt. Delord, Messrs. G. Loup and Galy Jean.
- Per *American Mail*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Rogers, Mrs. David Green, Mrs. Adam Bell, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Pope, Mrs. L. Henderson, Mrs. and Miss A. Christeson, Mrs. W. P. Boyd, Mrs. H. F. Dutton, Miss G. E. Dutton, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hobe, Mrs. I. M. Ross Soden, Misses E. Carman, J. Howard, Rev. O. S. Townsend, Major T. C. Moore, I.M.S., Asst. Surg. G. M. Mayer, U.S.N., Dr. C. W. Galloupe, Messrs. A. W. Thomson, A. L. Bernheimer, H. A. Geisendorfer, Stephan Smith, Chas. C. Williams, D. E. Stone, H. E. Sly, D. C. Campbell, H. L. Van Winkle, K. Saito, L. J. Llayburgh, J. C. Ross Soden, W. H. Boyd, A. B. Ross Soden, J. Bosustow, G. Ross Soden, W. R. Reber, H. Ross Soden and J. W. Jamieson.
- Per *Ernest Simons*, for Hongkong, from Colombo, Mrs. H. F. Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. A. Crouise, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. J. C. Pears, and Messrs. Robertson and Grant; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Garvey, Mr. and Mrs. Heemstede Oblet and Mr. F. Bonnet; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mrs. Jonain, Mrs. Didier and son, Comte Gallina, Lieut. Vachons, Comdt. Lambert, Messrs. F. M. Dresing, T. P. Poindron, Paul Serre, E. Jorgensen, St. Remy Ollivier, Victor Bonguet, Andre Penlein, Etienne and Chopin; from Djibouti, Mr. Kahn; from Colombo, Messrs. Ardeshir and Sorabje; from Singapore, Lieut. E. G. Davidson, Messrs. G. Barnier, M. S. Newhouse, S. Ehrlich, and M. Wagner; from Saigon, Mrs. Marcelle Josset, Messrs. G. Barnier and Bernard; for Nagasaki, from Marseilles, Lieut.-Col. de Gramprey; from Saigon, Mr. Legros; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Mr. Sumi; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Messrs. Geo. Hauton, Munsterberg, Bensetrite, and Begneus; from Port Said, Mr. Lefevre and daughter; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. A. Abia and Miss Abia, Messrs. Z. Martin and J. Merecki; from Batavia, Mr. W. C. D. Turner.
- Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Mrs. Church, Miss P. Church, Mrs. Gertrudis Weill, Mrs. J. B. Aleshire, Mrs. Willard, Mr. and Mrs. McHenry and Master McHenry, Misses Cameron, Ana Estaban, Maria Cuesta and Joabel Cuesta, Capt. Groves, Messrs. J. Lloyd, W. F. McLaughlan, B. Cameron, H. Thorp, F. S. Mason, E. Ross, R. M. Colesco, C. Roebian, F. C. Focken, Geo. Chatter, A. Kinnicar, Julius Shultz, R. Platt, and J. Newton.
- Per *Hikosan Maru*, from Kutchinotzu, Mr. and Mrs. Aitken.
- Per *Formosa*, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. Chapman.
- Per *Sullberg*, from Haiphong, Messrs. Mahe, Lules, Valentin, L. Bonaparte, Wyse and Low.
- Per *Rosetta Maru*, from Manila, Mrs. J. C. Gooduit, Mrs. Emma Auman, Mrs. C. C. Ogden, Mrs. Claire C. Sised, Capt. and Mrs. A. M.

Smith and Master Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. A. Colley, Misses Ella K. Vogel, Mabel Spicer, Marion Sorton, Blanche Huston, C. M. Bennett, Bessie Taylor, Capt. E. G. Bellais, Major Isaac W. Sittell, Messrs. Andrew Gaffney, Enrisue Gonzales, Juan Gonzales, J. F. Jahn, Alex. Filippine, Daisy M. Vogel, M. Kidasaki, Wm. Van Buskirk, G. F. Wittor, F. Van Muns, R. E. Stalleng, J. S. Micael, Murray Hendry and R. C. Woodware.

Per *Thales*, from Swatow, Mr. Vert.

Per *Kamakura Maru*, from London, &c., for Hongkong, Messrs. J. Symington, W. Mackie, W. Always, J. Graham and J. Stodart; for Shanghai, Mrs. Dantree and child, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hibberdine and Mr. G. Bayers; for Japan, Mrs. Purvis, Miss A. Purvis, Mrs. M. Eckert, Misses A. Eckert, Anna Eckert and E. Eckert, Mr. and Miss Rhodes, Messrs. A. Smith, R. M. Greig, K. Midzuno and O. Nagayawa, Prof. Muraoka and Dr. Kohoyashi.

DEPARTED.

Per *American Mail*, for Shanghai, Mrs. R. C. Sandy, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Keswick, Mrs. Z. van Buren, Mrs. Hanson, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Grun, Capt. Freeman, U.S.N., Mr. James Ismay and Miss Ismay, Messrs. J. F. Plummer, E. A. Crowninshields, Geoffrey Drage, A. Mac-killop and Gordon Fellows; for Nagasaki, Mr. Tikuchi; for Yokohama, Col. and Mrs. Cattell, Misses Cattell (2), Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Rook and infant, Miss Murray, Messrs. H. Ohara and Hara; for San Francisco, &c., Mrs. A. L. Foye, Mrs. Van Noorden, Mrs. L. D. Hargis, Mrs. J. P. Brinton and Miss Brinton, Misses M. Platter, Perry, Charlton, Baldwin, Robertson, H. O. Ewart, M. L. Clancy and B. Caldwell, Dr. C. Banks, Rev. R. H. Glover, Messrs. N. Harwood, P. Meyer, R. Turton, H. A. Mullikin, Fred A. Seymour, H. Goldschmidt, C. F. Davies, A. Van Noorden, and A. Tocher.

Per *Sydney*, for Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. S. Karaloshy and Mr. Davidson; for Batavia, Mr. H. A. Geisendorfer; for Colombo, Miss Loitchino; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Poterin du Motel and two children, Rev. J. Gonsalves, Messrs. C. L. de Quadros, Gengal, M. C. Meilheiro, V. Graves, Derrien Y. Joffre, B. Samson, and J. P. Cordier.

Per *Ernest Simons*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Seghers, Mrs. A. M. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. M. Russ, Mr. and Mrs. E. Staris, Miss Gutierrez, Rev. T. M. Presbitero, Messrs. I. M. Gutierrez, J. Gutierrez, J. Handelman, J. Mudser, A. Montalto de Jones, King Sell, H. Thorp, and G. Martini; for Nagasaki, Messrs. S. Bomiye, G. Arthur and S. Fujiwara; for Yokohama, Messrs. J. B. Gutierrez, J. P. Gutierrez and M. Gunschamdass.

Per *Empress of Japan*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mrs. M. S. Eyre, Mrs. E. E. De Gann, Mme. Piry and child, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Clapp and infant, Mrs. Dainty and child, Miss Meade De Lorme, Capt. H. Wilson, Colonel Dessino, M. E. Recher, Messrs. Ralph Mitchell, Luis Bultmann, Emile Bonnechaux, G. G. Perfect, Wm. Adamson, T. W. Newson, J. P. Kinghorn, J. Morvais, L. Metz, G. B. Boyers and W. H. Bramwell; for Yokohama, Mrs. D. Russell, Rev. and Mrs. Jay C. Goodrich, Mr. James Worrall and Misses Worrall (3), Misses Kennedy, Mabel Spicer, Marion Lawton, Blanche Lurton, Daisy M. Vogel, Ella K. Vogel, C. M. Bennett, and Bessie Taylor, Prof. E. H. Sharp, Messrs. E. A. Clagg, A. L. Bernheimer, and L. J. Clayburgh; for Boston, Misses A. H. Prevear and F. C. Prevear; for San Francisco, Messrs. R. J. Woodward, R. T. McCorwick and J. J. Dunn; for London, Mrs. and Miss Williams, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Walsh, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Goode, Misses Richards and Boake, Messrs. G. S. Richards, R. B. C. Scarlett, Theodore Williams, Samuel Goode, A. Boake and C. A. Ball-Acton; for Liverpool, Mrs. and Miss Hood and Mr. Mackay; for Paris, M. Georges Mahe; for Hamburg, Mr. H. A. Held; from Shanghai, for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Hy. Keswick; for London, Mrs. W. Hanson, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. V. Brega, Misses Enders and Brega, Messrs. W. B. Riadell and A. M. Harrison; from Yokohama, for London, Messrs. G. M. Discombe, T. Woods, John W. Rindloss and G. H. Holley; for New York, Mr. B. E. G. Gerlings.

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